

PH 367419

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 29 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 11 1977

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

River Road School

AND/OR COMMON

Little Red School House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

400 Riverside Ave. Corner Fern Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lyndhurst

VICINITY OF

9th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

034

Bergen

003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Education

STREET & NUMBER

Townhall Valley Brook Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lyndhurst

VICINITY OF

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bergen County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

STATE  
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 1420

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 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 River Road School was built in 1893 in the Queen Anne Style. It is a wood frame building on a brick foundation. The facade has a varying shingle pattern below the window sills which is almost a dado pattern. Above the window sills the building is clapboarded with corner boards. It has a medallioned cornice. The roof is basically hipped with a forward projecting pavillion with a gable end roof. Within the gable is a denticular cornice framing the gable. The gable also has scroll work which is typical of the Queen Anne design.

On the roof is an octagonal cupola with a conical roof, frieze and cornice.

The building is a basic square 30' X 30' with each side having 3 bays. It has a frontal projecting enhance with doors on each side.

During the past fifty years electric lights, a modern heating system and a telephone system has been installed. The only other alteration has been to change the entrance as the Fern Avenue side because of the heavy traffic flow on River Road.

# 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 checked="" 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		

SPECIFIC DATES

1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In every developing community it does not take very long to realize the need for a schoolhouse and an education for the towns young citizens. This need was felt in Lyndhurst early in the 19th century.

In its function as a school it contributed to the growth of the town. It represents the beginnings of public school education in the community and also symbolizes one aspect of life in Lyndhurst during the 19th century.

The land for the school was deeded by Jacob Van Winkle on January 9, 1804 to the school trustees of New Barbadoes Neck, as Lyndhurst was then called.

The first schoolhouse was erected in 1804 with money raised by subscription. The cost was \$162.20. The building was used until 1849 when it was torn down and a two story frame building with cupola and bell was erected. Only the first floor was used until 1873 when the need for more space caused them to hire another teacher and equipt the second floor.

The 1849 building was used until 1893 when it was torn down and the present building was constructed. The cost of construction was \$2,541.83 including a \$70.00 architect's fee.

The River Road School is significant for two reasons: education and architecture.

As Lyndhurst's first school, the River Road School was the foundation of a system that now educates over 3,000 children in six elementary schools. In recent years the River Road School was used for special education classes. Today it is used as a second grade classroom.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Booklet The Township of Lyndhurst 1917-1967, pg. 49.  
Newspaper The Commercial Ledger: Tercenterary Edition, 1964.

Van Valen, J.M., History of Bergen County, New Jersey, 1900, pg. 89-91.  
Westervelt, Francis P., History of Bergen County, New Jersey, New York, 1923, pg. 209-227.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	5	7	3	0	0	0	4	5	1	8	3	1	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Revisions: Nanci Kostrub, Historic Sites Section

Evelyn Pezzolla New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection (609) 292-2023  
ORGANIZATION DATE

American Revolution Bicentennial Committee  
STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Fern Avenue  
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lyndhurst

New Jersey

**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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE December 13, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/11/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE 11.8.77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

River Road Schoolhouse  
Lyndhurst  
Bergen County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1976

DATE ENTERED

NOV 11 1977

Significance cont'd:

The River Road School is also significant for its architecture. Few schoolhouses survive of this period, particularly in the Queen Anne Style. It has not been altered, except to change the entrance due to traffic flows. Schoolhouses were usually constructed in a basic form to cover the simple needs of the community. River Road School shows that the townspeople, proud of its educational system wanted a building to demonstrate this pride. The fine detailing of the facade and its octagonal cupola further emphasize this point.

12. 29. 1977

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 31 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 11 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

River Road School  
Lyndhurst  
Bergen County - 003

N.J. - 34  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER PAGE

EDUCATION

The oldest schoolhouse in the Township of Lyndhurst, the River Road School is a representative example of the small but sturdy elementary schools erected throughout the United States late in the 19th century. With its single classroom and double vestibule for the separation of sexes upon entering, the building exemplifies educational thought at the turn of the century.

Designed purely as a functional edifice, River Road School nonetheless projects a pleasant demeanor, but cannot be categorized stylistically beyond eclecticism with its simple block form, exposed half-timber framing, and Queen Anne cupola.