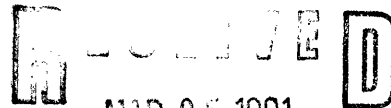


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



MAR 05 1991

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Greens Farms School other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Morningside Drive South at Boston Post Road city, town Westport state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06880

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local (checked), public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, sites, structures, objects. Total 1.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Westport, CT Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination (checked) 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 80. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of certifying official John Shanahan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date 3/1/91

In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. (checked) determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4-19-91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/arts center

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Tudor Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Greens Farms School is a brick building in the Tudor Revival style. Located on a large elevated lot, the school is sited facing west from a commanding position approximately 200 feet above Morningside Drive South just south of its intersection with the Boston Post Road. It is an elongated building (240') constructed in two sections: the original 1925 school on the north with a large circa 1950 addition on the south set at a slight angle to the older main block. There is a semicircular driveway from Morningside Drive which passes along the west elevation, the present facade. It is lined with mature maples on the northern end which were planted by the town in 1929 to enhance the original entrance to the building. A stone wall and landscaping set off the driveway from the sloping lawn to the west. Parking areas are located to the south and east (rear) of the building and playing fields to the northeast.

The original main block, set on an exposed rubblestone foundation, is two- and- one-half stories in height with steeply pitched gables on the north, east, and west elevations (Photograph #s 1, 2). Originally covered with slate, the gabled roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles. The parapeted gables of the north elevation and the slightly projecting gabled pavilions on the east and west are capped with limestone, a material used throughout the building for lintels, arches, and applied ornamental detail. At the center of the north gable, the original entrance to the building, is a 1936 addition: an enclosed brick entranceway with a gabled roof which repeats the slope of the main gable above. The antique red brick walls are laid in a common running bond with recessed mortar joints except for the wall of the west gable, which was repointed with flush joints. On either side of the north gable wall there are large rectangular sections of patterned brick. Bands of tall wooden multi-paned windows are found throughout except for the rear northeast gable which has replacement sash. The lower sash of the original windows swing out for ventilation.

The two-story south wing is integrated with the original school by Neo-Tudor detailing and connected by an imposing portico (Photograph #s 3, 4, 5). The addition steps down from the original building in two stages, following the slope of the terrain. Although it has a near-flat built-up roof, there is a crenelated parapet of limestone, a design repeated in the limestone stringcourses between stories. The new main entrance with a brick and limestone portico is located in the middle of the west elevation. Its parapet and Tudor-arched portals are limestone. Bands of multi-paned wooden windows are used on all the elevations of the addition with the exception of windows in an office space to the right (south) of the main entrance which contain leaded glass. The broad steps at the present main entrance, which were cast in place with pink concrete with a fine pebble aggregate surface, have deteriorated and are now being restored. Spalling had occurred

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1925

Significant Dates

1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cutler, Charles

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Greens Farms School is locally significant as a fine institutional example of the Tudor Revival style which captures the essence of this style in its prominent steep gables and arched openings. The only school constructed in this style in Westport, it has retained its integrity of form, materials, and workmanship. Enhanced by its exceptionally detailed and compatible 1950 addition, the Greens Farms School is historically significant for its association with the development of education in Westport in the early twentieth century and reflects the growth and increased sophistication of this suburban community in this period.

The 1925 school was designed by Charles Cutler, a local architect who was responsible for a number of buildings in Westport which were designed in the Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival styles. Another local example of his public architecture is the main office of the Westport Bank and Trust on the Boston Post Road East. Cutler graduated from the School of Architecture at Cornell University in 1906 and worked for Carrere and Hastings in New York City, where he assisted with the firm's plans for the New York Public Library. The 1950 addition to the school was designed by Lyons and Mather, an architectural firm in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The second of the twentieth-century schools to be built in Westport, the Greens Farms School was constructed on part of the David Coley farm, one of the leading farms in the Greens Farms district in the nineteenth century. See historic context I. Education. Originally constructed for 200 pupils, the school was more than doubled in size by the 1950 addition. The school closed in 1983, reflecting the decline in student population at that time. Since 1985 it has been leased by the town to the Westport Arts Center which is responsible for the preservation of the exterior of the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Backalenick, Irene. "Longtime Residents Recall Former School." 1964.
Malm, Dorothea. "Green Farms School." 1982.
Town of Westport. Annual Reports. 1920 - 1955.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 9

UTM References

A

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4	5	5	5	1	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the Town of Westport Land Records, Book 44, Page 70, May, 1924.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all of the original acreage purchased for the school in 1924 which is described above.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant, Reviewed by John Herzan, National
organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 8/20/90 Register Coordinator
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city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

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Greens Farms School, Westport, Connecticut

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at the corners of blocks where the steel reinforcing rods have rusted. The southwest entrance to the 1950 addition displays a central segmental-arched doorway trimmed with limestone (Photograph #6).

Changes to the interior of the original school include renovations for fire code and dropped ceilings in classrooms and hallways. Fire-rated partitions have been installed between the stairwells and the corridors; the tall transoms above classroom doors have been sealed and many painted over. The original classroom spaces remain and are used for artists' studios (Photograph #7). Most of the metal staircases and balustrades remain in place, including one to the attic level at the north end of the building, where the first principal's office was located (Photograph #8). The main stairwell at this end, running from the entrance at grade to the second floor, has a divided double staircase. Between and under these stairs is a circa 1935 WPA art project which originally included a mural and a fountain with a statue. The small mural remains in place but the fountain is no longer extant and the statue is in storage. The handcrafted metal balustrades on either side, also part of this project, are influenced by the Art Deco style (Photograph #9). The original auditorium/gymnasium is generally intact, although the proscenium of the elevated stage with its wide Tudor arch has been painted black.

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Greens Farms School, Westport, Connecticut

Section number Photos **Page** 1

List of Photographs

Property: Greens Farms School, Westport, Connecticut

Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.

Date: 6/90

Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 1925 section, west elevation
Facing: NW | 2. 1925 section, north & east
elevations
Facing: NW |
| 3. Entrance portico, 1950 addition
Facing: NE | 4. 1950 addition, south end
Facing: SE |
| 5. Rear elevations
Facing: NW | 6. South entrance, 1950 addition
Facing: NW |
| 7. Typical Classroom | 8. Typical staircase |
| 9. Interior, original entrance
Facing: N | |