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NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. Aug. 2002)	CMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires Jan. 2005)
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	JUL 6 2004
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	TORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. S of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicabl and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additic (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.	"x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information e." For functions, architectural classification, materials,
1. Name of Property	
historic name <u>Manitou Park School House</u>	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number167 Third Avenue	not for publication
city or town Township of Berkeley	vicinity
state <u>New Jersey</u> code <u>NJ</u> county <u>Ocean</u> code <u>0</u>	<u>29</u> zip code <u>08757</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amend request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for re- of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set fort property & meets I does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that nationally I statewide D locally. (I See continuation sheet for additional comment Additional Comment Additio	gistering properties in the National Register h in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the at this property be considered significant
Signature of certifying official Date	
John S. Watson, Jr. Assistant Commissioner Natural & Histori State or Federal Agency or Tribal government	c Resources/DSHPO
In my opinion, the property \Box meets \Box does not meet the National Register criteria comments.)	a. (See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of commenting official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby certify that this property is: IV 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	Date of Action 3/15/05
other (explain):	

Manitou Park School House Name of Property

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5.	Classification	

Ocean County, NJ County and State

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	Contributing 1	esources within Property Noncontributing	buildings sites structures objects Total		
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
N/A		N/A				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION/School		• •	tions from instructions) IN PROGRESS			
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Other: Pre-fabricated		Materials (Enter categories foundation walls roof other	from instructions) concrete asbestos; wood asphalt shingle			

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

See 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 a 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.
- D 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 # _____

Ocean County, NJ County and State

Areas of Significance Enter categories from instruction	ons)
Education	
Ethnic Heritage – Blac	k
Architecture	······································
Period of Significance	
1929 - 1937	
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1929, 1931, 1937 Significant Person Complete if Criterion B is marke N/A Cultural Affiliation	ed above)

Primary location of additional data:

- □ State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
 Name of Repository:
 Ocean Co. Historical Society; Hagley Museum

Ocean County, NJ County and State

Acreage of Prop	oerty 0.46 acre	es	_			
UTM References (Place additional UTM	S M references on a cont	tinuation sheet)				
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Boundary Justif	aries of the property on fication	n a continuation sheet.) on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepa	ared By					
name/title <u>/</u>	Ann M Keen, Archi	itectural Historian				
organization _	Ford Farewell Mil	lls & Gatsch, Architect	s, LLC	date <u>July</u>	2004	
street & number	103 Carnegie C	Center, Suite 301		telephone	609/452-1777	
city or town	Princeton	state <u>NJ</u>	zip code <u>08</u>	540		
Additional Doc	cumentation		<u></u>			
Submit the following	items with the complet	ted form:				
Continuation Sh	neets					
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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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>

Summary

The Manitou Park School House is located in Manitou Park, a predominantly African-American section of Berkeley Township southwest of Toms River in Ocean County, New Jersey. The schoolhouse is a 1-story, frame, pre-fabricated building constructed primarily in three stages between 1929 and 1937. It stands at 167 Third Avenue, on the north side of the street, on the lot between Fifth and Seventh Streets. The building is located towards the front of a 100' x 200' lot, with a recreational area to the east of the school. The setting for the schoolhouse is primarily residential, as it lies within a very small neighborhood less than a mile from U.S. Route 9 and the Garden State Parkway.

The one-story building was ordered from the Asbestos Buildings Company of Ambler, Pennsylvania, in 1929 to serve as an elementary school for the African-American community of Manitou Park. The building features a wood frame clad in asbestos panels. These panels, Ambler Asbestos Sheets, are a combination of asbestos and Portland Cement. The roof is gabled and was originally covered with asbestos shingles, now replaced with asphalt shingles. Ambler Asbestos Sheets also cover the interior walls.

The original building was a single room, with a crawlspace underneath. The school housed grades one through six, and approximately 30 students attended classes taught by an African-American instructor during the 1929-1930 school year. An increase in the number of students attending the school necessitated another schoolroom, which was added in 1931. In 1937 a third schoolroom was added, and most probably a bathroom as well. A full basement extends beneath the 1931 and 1937 additions. The three schoolrooms all feature Ambler Asbestos Sheets as paneling on both the interior and exterior of the building. Some time after 1937, another bathroom was added, as was a small office. This section of the building features clapboard on the exterior. After the school closed in 1960, minor modifications to the existing building were made to accommodate the nonprofit organization that moved into the schoolhouse in 1966. The building has been vacant since 1996.

General Description

The Manitou Park School House, built beginning in 1929, essentially consists of three classrooms, a boys' and girls' bathroom, an office, and a partially finished basement. It appears to have been constructed in at least three phases, yet the consistency of materials used (e.g., the same asbestos panels used throughout the majority of the building), suggests that little time elapsed between the first three phases. Historical sources reinforce this assumption, as several accounts state that the original one-room schoolhouse was erected in 1929, with additional rooms added in 1931 and 1937.¹

The original building was purchased from the Asbestos Buildings Company in 1929. An examination of the foundation walls indicates that the original schoolhouse encompassed the west classroom and part of

Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Description

¹ Dates of additions appear in several sources, notably in Carolyn Campbell, *Chickaree in the Wall: A History of One-Room Schools in Ocean County, NJ.* Toms River, NJ: Ocean County Historical Society, 1987, p. 81.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Description

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what is now the main hallway. The original room extended to the middle of that hallway. The southeast classroom and the rest of the hallway were added next, in 1931, but most probably purchased as a single room, giving the building a symmetrical appearance from the exterior. A 1925 Asbestos Buildings Company catalog indicates that rooms could be partitioned, but were sold in modular units. Thus, the materials for the west classroom, the southeast classroom and the hallway in between them were purchased as two individual schoolrooms, and then additional materials were purchased to subdivide the two rooms to make a hallway between the two and to provide the coatrooms and closets that are still present in the rooms.

The northeast classroom was a third phase of construction (1937), again, most probably purchased as a free-standing schoolroom, but modified to connect to the pre-existing building. What is now the boys' bathroom and the area extending east towards the northeast classroom were also most likely to have been added at this time. The rear office and girls' bathroom were added last, after 1937, but certainly before the building ceased to function as a school in 1960.

Despite the similarity of materials used in the classrooms and the main hallway, there are numerous structural indications that suggest phased construction, beginning with the lack of correlation between the basement space and the existing first floor plan. An examination of the east side of the building reveals a full basement underneath the northeast and southeast classrooms. Yet the western wall of the basement runs directly beneath the center of the main hallway. This foundation wall presumably would have originally supported an exterior wall, suggesting the full width of the hallway as it stands today was not part of the original plan.

There is also a lack of uniformity within the basement space itself. The area under the west classroom and half of the hallway is a crawlspace, as opposed to the full basement that exists under the eastern half of the hallway and both eastern classrooms. The crawlspace under the west classroom contains a well for the building. Under the office and the bathrooms, there is no basement space at all.

Although the schoolhouse is clad in similar asbestos panels, phased construction is indicated in a closer examination of exterior elements as well. The two halves of the front façade are not identical (although they initially give such an impression), but rather appear to have been two buildings purchased from the Asbestos Buildings Company and placed side by side. The eastern and western front entrance doors are actually framed differently. While the two doors are similar in size in their current state, the framing reveals that the original doors were not the same height and width. In addition, differing trim details on the east and west sides of the building point to construction in phases. The east side has a ribbed trim surrounding the exterior asbestos panels, while the west side has plain block trim. Finally, there are breaks in the foundation wall between the boys' and the girls' bathrooms that indicate that the back of the building was constructed in a third phase. The foundation for the office and the girls bathroom is smooth concrete (commonly used in the second half of the 20th century), as compared to the rusticated foundation for the rest of the building, which is typical early-to-mid-20th century in style.

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EXTERIOR

The schoolhouse is located on the north side of Third Avenue and faces south-southwest. The front of the building is referred to as the south elevation.

The building is approximately 20'-8" high and sits on a 9-in wood sill above the foundation (rusticated concrete for the oldest sections, parged concrete elsewhere). The visible foundation that supports the office and the girls' bathroom is parged concrete. The exterior sheathing comprises Fireproof Ambler Red Asbestos Sheets that are generally divided into 4-foot segments, separated by original 3-inch beaded wood partitions on the west side of the building, block trim elsewhere.

The roof originally consisted of Ambler Fireproof Asbestos shingles, but those have since been replaced with asphalt shingles. Two chimneys are situated 5 feet on either side of the building's center through the ridge of the roof. There is a grass-and-dirt mix open area in the front of the building, extending 72 feet across and 27 feet deep, approximately 8 feet from the road. Across from the east elevation is a playground area with recreation equipment and basketball courts. A rustic split post and rail fence stands approximately 5 feet away from the building, enclosing the area.

South Elevation (Photos 1-2)

The front (south) façade is approximately 72 feet long and has a $12^{\circ}-6^{\circ}$ -long gabled front entry porch with double entry doors painted white. The porch is roughly centered between the two classrooms. The entry doors both have similar Colonial-type molding. Three concrete stairs, not original, lead to the concrete landing approximately $10^{\circ}-6^{\circ}$ wide and $4^{\circ}-6^{\circ}$ deep. There are six replacement jalousie windows on the west side of the façade that run 24 feet. On the east side of the façade there is a bank of five double-hung (6/6) windows that also run approximately 24 feet, presumed to be original.

East Elevation (Photos 3 – 4)

The east elevation is approximately 57 feet and features a 19-foot enclosure for the stairway to the basement and a two-door entryway to the eastern classrooms. Five sets of double hung (6/6) windows on the northern section are presumed to be original. The upper central window has been modified to support an air conditioner. White, triangular knee-brace wood brackets support the roof.

A 19-foot addition provides covered entrance to the basement on its south side and open entrance to the northeast and southeast classrooms on its east side. The addition is approximately 4 feet deep and has a shed roof, modern shingled exterior (covering original bead board construction), and wood plank flooring. It presumably dates from 1937. Doors are metal.

North Elevation (Photos 5 – 6)

The oldest section is clad in asbestos panels, although several have been replaced with plywood, while the more recent additions (boys bathroom, girls bathroom, office) are clad in wide clapboard. The three-

Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Description

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Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Description

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room section is two bays wide, two bays deep. An original 6/6 window is located to the east of the rear entrance, which features a hollow metal door with simple trim. Four wood steps lead up to the porch landing.

West Elevation (Photo 7)

The exterior of the west classroom features asbestos panels with beaded trim and one plywood panel replacement. The western exterior of both bathrooms is wide clapboard and features two original 6/6 windows. There is an exterior chimney near the juncture of the northeast classroom and the office.

INTERIOR

Basement – Room 1 (Photo 8)

The total basement area is approximately 1500 square feet, subdivided into three rooms.

The area of the main room in the basement is approximately 700 square feet and dates from the 1937 renovations. The area is organized into two areas: one for general use and the other for kitchen space.

The flooring is square linoleum tile, original to the room. Walls are made of concrete and stucco and painted pale yellow. The foundation walls are concrete block, and the other divider walls have rusticated block style beginning about two-thirds up the wall. The rusticated appearance is consistent with the foundation for the classrooms and the hallway on the main floor, as visible on the building's exterior, therefore the rusticated walls presumably served as foundation walls originally.

Two sets of original sliding windows are in the room, one set on the north wall, one set on the east wall. There is a wood veneer partition that reaches the ceiling set approximately 6 feet from the east wall of the main room.

Basement – Room 2

Basement Rooms 2 and 3 were likely excavated at the same time, corresponding to the 1931 addition of the southeast classroom above. Room 2 is located to the south and east of the main basement room, and it covers approximately 400 square feet. The walls are made from concrete-masonry units (CMU) and the ceiling and floors are concrete.

Basement – Room 3

Room 3 is located to the south of the main basement room, and it covers approximately 420 square feet. It was excavated at the same time as Room 2, in 1931. The walls are CMU, and the ceiling is either the same panel system as in Room 1 or gypsum board, and the floor is concrete. A steel beam extends from the western end of the room through the eastern end of Room 2. There is evidence of two openings installed in the northern foundation wall of this room, but the openings are blocked, so it is not possible to determine what type of opening they were. The presence of these openings indicates that access to

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Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Description

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Rooms 2 and 3 may have been somewhere along this wall. Portions of the wall are covered with cinder block, so again, it is difficult to determine the type and location of the original means of access. The present access to the basement is also along this wall, although the current stairway leads down to an opening in Room 1.

FIRST FLOOR

Classrooms (Photos 9 – 12)

There are three classrooms in the building, with the west and southeast rooms each approximately 700 square feet, and the northeast approximately 715 square feet.

Visible in the west classroom, the original floor is 2 ¹/₂-inch yellow pine plank, as specified by the Asbestos Building Company's 1925 catalog. The floors in the eastern rooms are covered with an industrial, modern carpet. In these two rooms, in the area where there are child-sized sinks, the floor is covered in linoleum tile.

Walls are yellow asbestos panels with original 3-inch wood trim between each panel. Slate chalkboards are installed on the walls. Original wood trim throughout the rooms is white, with either a 3-inch or 4-inch width. The ceiling comprises 4' x 8' white asbestos panels.

The metal jalousie windows in the west room are framed in wood and are butted next to each other. In the southeast classroom, there are 5 bays of original 6/6 windows in the southern wall. One sash has been replaced with an air conditioner. In the northeast classroom on the eastern wall, there are five original 6/6 windows. There are wide jambs between each window.

There are modern fluorescent light fixtures in the rooms, but older fixture caps are still in place.

The 7-sectioned wood door between the eastern classrooms is made up of two half-width doors and five full-sized doors, all painted yellow, with the full doors featuring a yellow asbestos panel, no longer in place. Cupboard and storage doors in the eastern classrooms are pivot doors.

Main Hallway (Photos 13 - 15)

The 2 ¹/₂-inch wooden plank flooring that runs vertically down the hallway has distinct sloping away from the middle of the floor all along the length of the hallway; this is probably due to the fact that the basement foundation wall is located directly below the center of this hallway. The presence of the basement foundation wall directly in the middle of this hallway indicates that half of it was probably originally a part of the west classroom from 1929, and the other half was part of the southeast classroom, added in 1931.

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Wood wainscoting (approximately 4 feet high) has been added on the west side of the hallway. Green asbestos panels (typically 4' x 8') edged by 3-inch white wooden trim cover the walls above the wainscoting and the east side of the hallway.

The ceiling is made of asbestos 4'x 8' panels (original) that appear throughout the building.

The main entry doors differ in width; the east door is 2'-7" and the west door is 2'-10". Neither door is original. Previous framing is visible from behind each door. The original east opening was at least two inches taller than the west door. The door to the southeast classroom has been removed. A door leaning against the wall in the hallway is assumed to be the door to the room, as it is similar to the door to the west classroom. Both doors are solid wood construction with four panes of glass centered at the top. Each door has two beveled panels below. As these doors match the specifications in the Asbestos Buildings Company's 1925 catalog, they are presumed to be original. Several original closet doors remain and they are of solid wood construction with five beveled panels.

Office

The office was added to the building, along with the girls' bathroom, after 1937 and before the school closed in 1960. There were no records found to clarify when this section was built. This room measures approximately 9' x 12'. It is not clear when this room was constructed, but it appears to be a later date than the other rooms, as discussed in earlier sections of the description.

The walls in this room are made of a cementitious/composite panel, different from the asbestos panel appearing throughout the classrooms and the hallway. The ceiling is the same material as the walls.

There is one painted wooden double-hung window (6/6) original to the addition, similar to the windows in the boys' and girls' bathrooms.

Girls' Bathroom

The girls' bathroom was added to the building, along with the office, after 1937 and before the school closed in 1960. This room is about 60 square feet and contains what appears to be original wood partitions. The walls and ceiling are gypsum board, the floor has a concrete base. The window in the girls' bathroom is a wooden double-hung window.

Boys' Bathroom (Photo 16)

The boys' bathroom was most likely added to the existing building in 1937, along with the northeast classroom and the interior hallway leading into that classroom. The boys' bathroom is only approximately 48 square feet. The flooring is concrete, and the walls and ceiling are gypsum board. The window is a painted, wooden, double-hung type (6/6).

Manitou Park School House **Ocean County, New Jersey** Description

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Summary

The Manitou Park School House exemplifies a vitally important time in the history of prefabricated construction and of public education in New Jersey. The original one-room school was purchased out of a catalog of asbestos-paneled schoolhouses in 1929, as were the next two classrooms, dating from 1931 and 1937, locating it within a specific era of the development of education-related prefabricated architecture. The schoolhouse, erected to serve the African-American neighborhood of Manitou Park, also stands as an extant illustration of segregated education in the New Jersey public school system up through *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka* (1954). Both the building's physical attributes and its historical context contribute to the assessment that the schoolhouse plays an important role in the narrative of New Jersey cultural and architectural history.

The schoolhouse represents a specific period in the profusion of prefabricated housing, particularly asbestos-based construction prior to its being phased out for health reasons. The building's manufacturer, the Asbestos Buildings Company of Ambler, Pennsylvania, provided materials for numerous schoolhouses, not limited to New Jersey. Its advertisements proclaimed that the combination of fireproof asbestos and the ease of prefabricated construction was a technological and economic advancement for school districts everywhere, making buildings safer and less expensive.

African-American students from Manitou Park had been attending schools in Bayville and Toms River prior to the construction of the Manitou Park School House in 1929. In the 1920s, Ocean County experienced a surge in the African-American population, resulting in crowding in the schools. Newspaper accounts detail difficulties in grouping white students and African-American students of the same age in classes, as many of the African-American students were said by the board of education to be at a lower educational level than their white classmates. It was determined by the board that the African-American students should have a school of their own, with an African-American instructor. The rooms initially provided in South Toms River were deemed inadequate by Manitou Park parents, provoking a number of court cases and education commission hearings in the late 1920s, eventually resulting in the construction of the Manitou Park School House in 1929.

Origins and Establishment of the School

The small community of Manitou Park lies on a northern boundary line between Berkeley Township and Dover Township in Ocean County. Manitou Park was originally settled in the 1890s and developed into a recognized neighborhood by 1907. Residents were primarily African-American employees of a local sawmill and the Central New Jersey Railroad and their families.¹ A Methodist church was established in the 1890s as well, on land donated by Alexander Wells, an African-American resident of the community and owner of the local grocery store. The community was very small in area, ensuring that its school would be a focal point of the community.

Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Statement of Significance

¹ Pauline Miller, *Ocean County: Four Centuries in the Making*, Toms River, NJ: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 2000, p. 662.

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In the 1920s, Berkeley Township had an agreement with Dover Township with regard to the education of the school-aged children in its township, including those living in Manitou Park. Younger children were to attend school in Bayville, in Berkeley Township, and older youths were sent to Toms River middle and high schools, in Dover Township.

By the mid-1920s, a rift between the predominantly white communities of Bayville and Toms River on the one side and the African-American Manitou Park community on the other became evident. Like many other communities in the U.S. in the early 20th century, Ocean County was home to much racial separatist sentiment, perhaps predicated by the increasing numbers of African-Americans moving into New Jersey. In 1920, African-Americans made up 2.6 percent of Ocean County's population, whereas by 1930, that percentage, while still small, had risen to 3.8 percent.² Of the 193 Manitou Park residents listed on the 1930 U.S. Census, only 15 percent were born in New Jersey. Reflecting the national trend associated with what is known as the "Great Migration," 76 percent of the Manitou Park residents in 1930 were born in states spanning from Maryland to Florida.

In keeping with the empowerment advocacy as put forth by activists including Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. DuBois, many African-American parents also supported separate schools for their children. Former students of other segregated schools in southern New Jersey recalled that it was their parents who demanded a separate school: "Our school wasn't segregated because the powers that be wanted it that way. Our parents requested it. They wanted to employ black teachers. Our teacher was very competent and prepared us so we could compete when we moved on to an integrated school."³ For years, some activists had maintained that the only way for the African-American population to rise above racial prejudice was to succeed without any collaboration with the white majority. Marcus Garvey, a leader of the separatist movement after World War I, encouraged African-Americans to demand their own schools, voicing concern that African-American children were ignorant of black history and culture, an ignorance no white teacher could remedy.⁴ Even earlier in the century, W.E.B. DuBois stated, "If the Negro [is to] learn, he must teach himself."⁵ The increasing numbers of African-Americans moving north in the Great Migration also seemed to be in favor of segregated schools, as these transplanted families had limited exposure to the idea of integrated schooling.⁶ Thus, for a number of reasons - increased cultural sensitivity, better treatment of their children, providing jobs for African-American teachers – some boards of education and some residents of African-American communities,

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 $^{^{2}}$ According to the New Jersey State Data Center, Ocean County's population in 1920 was 22,155 and its African-American population was 566. In 1930, the county population had risen to 33,069, and its African-American population had more than doubled to 1,258.

³ Henry Harris Sr., as quoted in Barbara S. Rothschild's article "South Jerseyans Remember Days of Segregation," New Jersey Courier-Post, May 29, 2003, online edition.

⁴ Susan Salvatore et al, "Racial Desegregation in Public Education in the U.S.," United States Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, August 2000, p. 54.

⁵ W.E.B. DuBois, from Souls of Black Folk (1903), as quoted in Wynetta Devore, The Education of Blacks in New Jersey, 1900-1930: An Exploration in Oral History, EdD Thesis, Rutgers University, 1991, p. 113.

⁶ Salvatore, p. 54.

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Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Statement of Significance

including Manitou Park, agreed to establish segregated schools despite the 1881 New Jersey law prohibiting racial discrimination in public schools.

In February 1927, the Dover School Board asserted that, due to the increasing numbers of African-American students from Manitou Park, the community should have a school of its own, as well as an African-American teacher. The first rooms rented out by the Dover Board for the purpose of establishing a school for Manitou Park residents were located in Wells Chapel, a Methodist Church on Center Street in South Toms River. Depending on the source, Manitou residents were either unhappy with the potential Methodist influence on the curriculum (most residents were Baptist) or dismayed at the perceived inadequate conditions of the new schoolrooms. In any case, the majority of parents refused to send their children to the new school. In presenting their concerns to the Dover School Board in February 1927, parents were advised "they would have to send their children to the school provided for them or the truancy law would be invoked."⁷ Several students then attempted to return to their original schools in Bayville or Toms River, and were allegedly prevented from entering by school administrators. At this point, both sides involved the local courts and the State Board of Education.

The State Education Commission handed down its decision in July 1927 that the Dover Board was guilty of racial discrimination and ordered that the Manitou Park students be reinstated at the schools they had allegedly been barred from attending.⁸ But the commission also declared that the "pupils in question may be segregated into special classes for reasons other than 'religion, nationality, or color.'"⁹ When protesting that the opening of the Wells Chapel school was not racially motivated, the Dover Board had stated that the African-American students from Manitou Park were slower learners than their white counterparts, and thus a new school would enable both groups to learn at a level appropriate to their educational skills. As the *Trenton Sun* pointed out, the commission's decision amounted to little, as the ruling declared that "colored children should be returned to the Dover Township schools until the end of the contract between the two townships," and the contract between Berkeley and Dover townships had already expired in June 1927.¹⁰

In 1928, the Berkeley Township Board of Education formed a committee, comprising board members and representatives from Manitou Park, to seek a location for a brand-new school. Ten lots were purchased from Mr. Eli Yoder, located on Third Avenue between Fifth and Seventh Streets in Manitou Park. After visiting existing models in other New Jersey towns,¹¹ the Board opted to erect a portable schoolhouse on the lots and proceeded to purchase the materials from a catalog published by the Asbestos Buildings Company, headquartered in Ambler, Pennsylvania. The Board paid \$2,650 for the

⁷ "Colored Parents Still Keep Children at Home," New Jersey Courier, February 11, 1927, p. 2.

⁸ "Negroes Win in Toms River School Fight," Trenton Sun, July 1, 1927, p. 1.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Several sources state that Board of Education members visited several New Jersey towns, and specifically mention Metuchen, but information has yet to be uncovered that verifies which towns had purchased this type of pre-fabricated, portable schoolhouse or which towns the board actually visited.

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materials and less than \$70 for three men to erect the building. Following what the Asbestos Buildings Company advised, as seen in its 1925 catalog, the board hired one skilled worker (paid \$58) and two laborers (paid less than \$5 each). A well was drilled for \$37.50 and a Waterbury Waterman Coal Heater was purchased and installed for \$220.¹²

The opening of the school in 1929 indicates that the *Plessy v. Ferguson* "separate but equal" policy (1896) was still being applied in certain parts of New Jersey (primarily in southern New Jersey and certain urban centers), even after the 1927 rulings of the New Jersey State Education Commission that separation along racial lines was discriminatory. The Louisiana-based *Plessy* case dealt with the constitutionality of racially segregated trains, as a railroad company forced Mr. Plessy, who was 1/8 black, thus black by Louisiana law, to move from his seat on an all-white train car. The U.S. Supreme Court supported the State of Louisiana's claim that just because an African-American rider was forced to move to a different car, and neither train car could be proven worse or better than the other, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery and involuntary servitude had not been violated. Numerous states used this decision to provide white and non-white people with separate services, including public education, as seen in the case of the Manitou Park School House.

Approximately 30 students attended the Manitou Park School House in its opening year. With the local African-American population steadily increasing during the Great Migration, the school board opted to add an additional room to the school in 1931 and another African-American teacher was hired. By 1937 expansion was again required, and the third classroom was erected, again purchased presumably from the Asbestos Buildings Company.¹³ The community's growth must have slowed considerably thereafter, as by 1940 the school reduced its staff back to two instructors.

Formerly segregated schools evolved into "neighborhood" schools after *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka* (1954), as was the case in Manitou Park. In an ironic twist, once the Manitou Park School House closed in 1960, its students were once again bused to Bayville and Toms River schools.

Asbestos Construction and Prefabrication

According to 2002 report commissioned by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the earliest use of the fibrous mineral asbestos was documented in 2500 B.C., when craftsmen utilized its strength and heat-resistance in the fabrication of clay utensils and pottery.¹⁴ Industrialized use of asbestos dates to the Italian incorporation of asbestos fibers in textiles in the early 1800s.¹⁵ In the United States, its use in manufacturing skyrocketed after the discovery of large mineral deposits in Canada in 1878.

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¹² Reginald Boswell, "A History of the Manitou Park School," n.d., p. 2.

¹³ The consistency of the building materials and style, as discussed in Section 7, as well as the short time span between room constructions, point to the Asbestos Buildings Company as a likely source for the 1931 and 1937 additions. However, no documentation has been discovered to date to verify Asbestos Building Company's role in the two additions.

¹⁴ Robert L. Virta, "Asbestos: Geology, Mineralogy, Mining, and Uses," New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2002, p. 5.
¹⁵ Ibid.

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In the early 1880s, doctor and chemist Richard V. Mattison, cofounder of the Keasbey and Mattison pharmaceutical company, discovered the insulating properties of asbestos, when combined with milk of magnesia, amongst other things. In 1881 the company moved from Philadelphia to the small town of Ambler, Pennsylvania, and from that point, Keasbey and Mattison focused on asbestos-based building and industrial products, and evolved into one of the largest companies in the industry.

The panels that form the exterior and interior walls of the schoolhouse consist of asbestos fibers bonded with portland cement. As Amy Lamb Woods discussed in a presentation at the Preserving the Recent Past 2 Conference in 2000, the combination of asbestos fibers and cement results in a hard substance that is durable and fire resistant and yet easily manufactured and installed.¹⁶ The key to production of asbestos-cement panels was Austrian Ludwig Hatschek's 1907 development of the Hatschek machine, a wet transfer roller that removes water from the asbestos-cement slurry and then rolls the result into sheets to be cut to desired size and then dried. Asbestos-cement products made using this technique were characteristically "lightweight, impermeable to water, durable, tough, resistant to rot, termites, soiling, corrosion, warping, and fire, and easy to clean and maintain,"¹⁷ leading to its widespread use in the construction industry for siding, shingles, and panels. Both asbestos-cement roofing shingles and wall panels were originally present in the Manitou Park School House, with the wall panels still extant.

Richard Mattison was the president of the Asbestos Buildings Company, a subsidiary of Keasbey and Mattison Company, when the Manitou Park School House was built. Asbestos Buildings Company's title for one of its school buildings catalog was "Ambler Fireproof Asbestos School Building's 'Save Children's Lives." The catalog focuses on the fire-prevention campaigns begun by the Board of Fire Underwriters in 1916.¹⁸ One of Asbestos Buildings Company's sales brochures features a quote from the National Fire Protection Association that, while not an endorsement of asbestos schools per se, highlights the importance of fire safety in school buildings, something that an Asbestos Buildings Company-manufactured school offered: "School Buildings are the most important structures of any type, for it is here that character and citizenship are moulded, and a building of questionable safety is not only a poor investment but a reflection upon the intelligence of any community which erects and maintains it."¹⁹ Those selecting the design and construction method for the Manitou Park School House, then, were concerned not only with financial responsibility, then, but also with fire safety, an important selling point in any period, but especially emphasized beginning in 1916. The "Save Children's Lives" catalog carried testimonials and references from schools in Miami, Hialeah and Homestead (Florida); Lansdowne and Altoona (Pennsylvania); and Salamanca (New York), although no additional information on any of these schools has been found to date.

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¹⁶ Amy Lamb Woods, "Keeping a Lid on It: Asbestos-Cement Building Materials," paper presented at Preserving the Recent Past 2, a conference organized by Technical Preservation Services of the National Park Service, p. 1.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 2-3.

¹⁸ Erin M. Tobin, "When the Imitation Becomes Real: Attitudes Toward Asphalt and Asbestos-Cement Roofing and Siding," *APT Bulletin*, vol. XXXI, 2-3, 2000, p. 34.

¹⁹ Asbestos Buildings Company, "Fireproof Ambler Asbestos School Buildings" catalog, 1925, p. 1.

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The versatility of the product was another essential selling point for the Asbestos Buildings Company. Its "Save Children's Lives" brochure from 1925 offers options for assembling sanatoriums, children's "health schools," cafeterias, and school gymnasia with its modular system. Manitou Park took advantage of pre-fabrication's modular construction system, as the 1929 one-room schoolhouse expanded to two rooms in 1931 and added a third room in 1937, showing only minor deviations from the original specifications.

Maintaining the advantages of low cost and ease of use, the Asbestos Buildings Company offered buyers its asbestos-cement products prefabricated, requiring minimal architectural expertise and few laborers. The company advertised the construction process for school buildings "as near 'fool proof' as possible."²⁰ The building was shipped in sections, with hardware, windows, and doors included, so onsite laborers needed only to bolt the sections together, under the direction of a single skilled worker.

Prefabricated construction dates to the early 17th century when wood panels were shipped to the New World for fishermen's housing.²¹ With the integration of engineering and architecture in the modern industrial age, there was an increased emphasis on more streamlined systems of construction, using the production line concept. Beginning with Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace in 1851, builders and the public alike recognized the advantages of modular building, including rapid turnaround time, and low costs for both design and installation. As businesses like the Asbestos Buildings Company offered all of the necessary elements to erect a building, it was the logical next step to prefabricate the components for even easier construction, so the products could be marketed directly to the end-user.

Perhaps as is to be expected with the health risks now associated with asbestos, there is little current information to be found on the topic of asbestos portable schools, despite their obvious popularity in the first half of the 20th century. Prefabricated school buildings like the Manitou Park School House were most often used as temporary structures, thus they rarely rate more than a brief mention in most school histories.

Only one school history discovered specifically mentions an asbestos structure being built as a schoolroom. The Cornwells Elementary School in Bensalem, Pennsylvania used a portable asbestos school in 1924 while the main school was undergoing renovations.²² Another school, St. Peter's School in Mansfield, Ohio, does not mention its 1923 portable school was an asbestos model, yet an accompanying photograph clearly shows the same panel construction as the Manitou Park School House.²³ No extant pre-fabricated asbestos schools have been identified in New Jersey other than Manitou Park.

 ²⁰ Asbestos Buildings Company catalog, "Ambler Fireproof Asbestos School Buildings 'Save Children's Lives," 1925, p. 2.
 ²¹ Brvan Burkhart and Allison Arieff, *Prefab*, Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 2002, p. 13.

²² The school no longer needed the structure by 1930 and sold it to a local engineering company for \$250. Source: Bensalem Township School District Web site: http://www.bensalemschools.org.

²³ St. Peter's School information was found on the school history page on the parish's Web site, http://www.mansfieldstpeters.org/stpeters/schools/history.html.

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Building Use Post-1960

The Manitou Park School House stood vacant from 1960, when the school closed, until April 1966, when the Ocean County Economic Action Now (OCEAN) organization moved in. The group was federally funded to lead anti-poverty activities and conduct a grassroots rescue mission for Ocean County.²⁴ In 1996, the group moved to a different location in the Manitou Park neighborhood, 264 First Avenue, after personnel discovered that asbestos was the primary building material used throughout the building. It has stood unoccupied since that time, resulting in the building's present state of deterioration.

Conclusion

The schoolhouse is one of the few extant examples of the "separate but equal" public school policy prevalent in southern New Jersey prior to *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka* in 1954.²⁵ Its asbestoscement building materials and prefabricated construction are also integral to the building's significance, as few, if any, examples of this institutional architecture remain from this period, in New Jersey or elsewhere. Based on its role as a community focal point, a symbol of Ocean County public education policies in the 1920s, and a rare extant illustration of prefabricated asbestos schoolhouse construction, the Manitou Park School House is an essential story within the history of New Jersey.

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²⁴ Boswell, p. 4.

²⁵ Two extant "separate but equal" schools in New Jersey are documented in Wendel A. White's *Small Towns: Black Lives*, which includes images of the Franklin Street School in Cape May (1927) and Richardson Avenue School in Swedesboro (1925). The Richardson Avenue School was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Other extant "separate but equal" schools in New Jersey include the Court Street School in Freehold, a recipient of funds from the New Jersey Historic Trust and added to the National Register in 1995, and the William R. Allen School in Burlington City (1900), also a recipient of funds from the New Jersey Historic Trust.

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Boundary Description

The Manitou Park School House is located in Manitou Park, Berkeley Township, at 167 Third Avenue, within Block 56, Lot 555.01, on the north side of the street, between Fifth and Seventh Streets. The building is located towards the front of the original 100' x 200' lot. Please see the accompanying site plan for clarification.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the original lot of the school property, as outlined in the Boundary Description. The original property line was the combination of the 10 lots purchased from Eli Yoder in 1927, located on lots 551-555 on the north side of Third Avenue and lots 706-710 on the south side of Fourth Avenue, as illustrated in the 1907 subdivision map of Manitou Park, whose relevant section is also included within the Addition Documentation section of this nomination. Since the original purchase, the Township of Berkeley has purchased adjacent lots for recreational use. These additional lots are not included in the Manitou Park School House boundary.

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Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey Verbal Boundary Description

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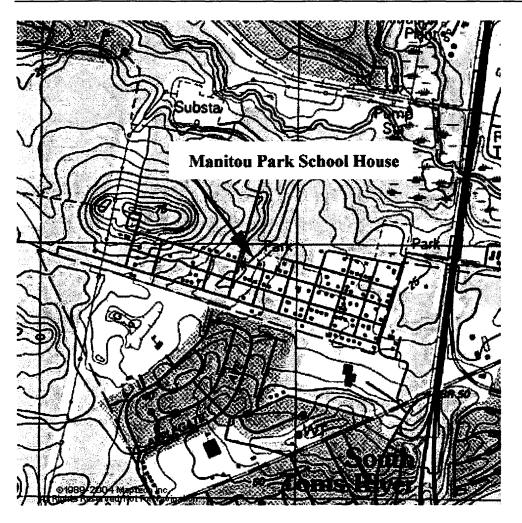


Figure 1. Manitou Park School House, Township of Berkeley, Ocean County, as located on U.S. Geological Survey Map.

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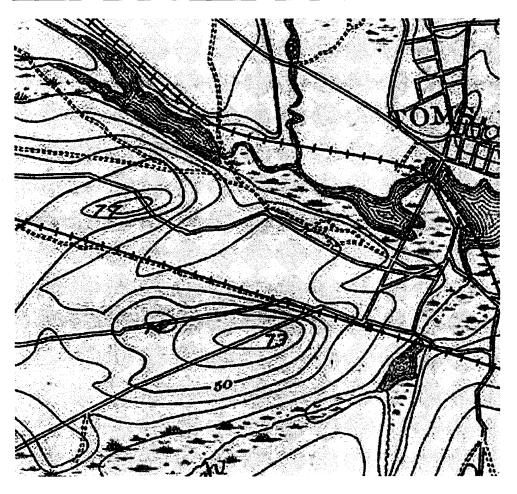


Figure 2. Map of Manitou Park area, as yet unsettled, 1884 USGS Map, surveyed in 1884.

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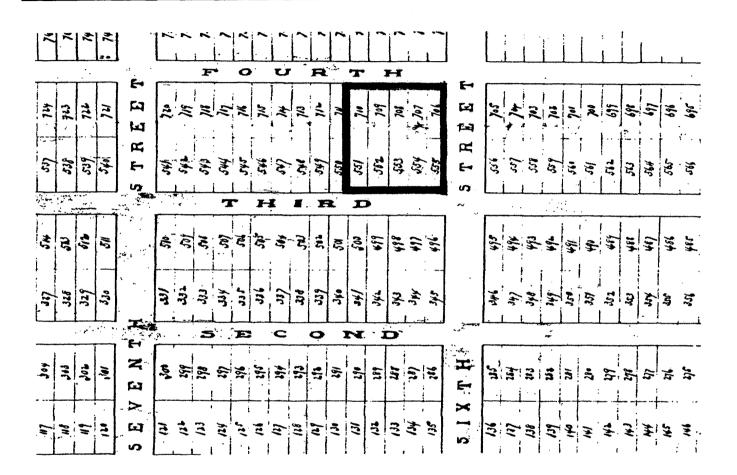


Figure 3. Map of Manitou Park from subdivision map of 1907, with original lots purchased from Eli Yoder for the purpose of erecting the Manitou Park School House.

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Figure 3. Map of Manitou Park, 1948 USGS Map, aerial survey done in 1940, revised 1946.





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Figure 5. Manitou Park School House, circa early 1970s.



Figure 6. Aerial view of Keasbey and Mattison Company in Ambler, Pennsylvania, circa 1920.

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ASBESTOS BUILDINGS COMPANY - AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA

Ambler Asbestos SCHOOL BUILDINGS

A solution of one of the most serious problems facing the Local School Board

Everywhere

ASBESTOS BUILDINGS CO., PHILADELPHIA 2013 MARKET STREET



"No Room Children You Can't Come In!"



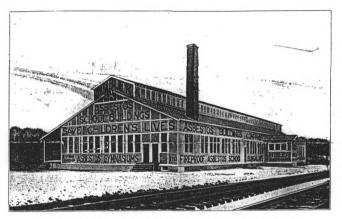


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AMBLER FIREPROOF ASBESTOS SCHOOL BUILDINGS "SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES"



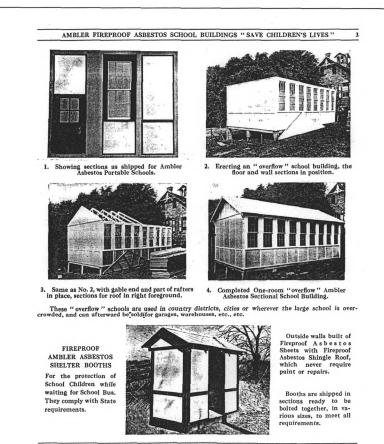
FACTORY OF ASBESTOS BUILDINGS COMPANY-AMBLER, PENNA.

Figure 8. Image from Asbestos Buildings Company catalog, 1925.

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"ASBESTOS CANNOT BURN"

Figure 9. Modular construction of portable one-room schoolhouse from Asbestos Buildings Company catalog, 1925.

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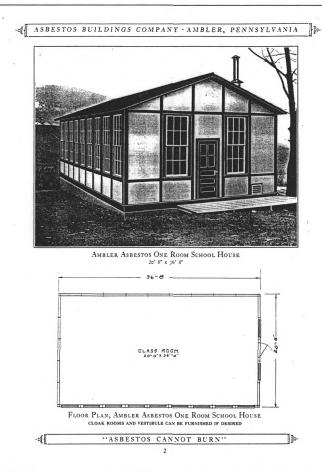


Figure 10. Typical layout of one-room schoolhouse from Asbestos Buildings Company catalog, 1925.

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Manitou Park School House Ocean County, New Jersey **Additional Documentation**

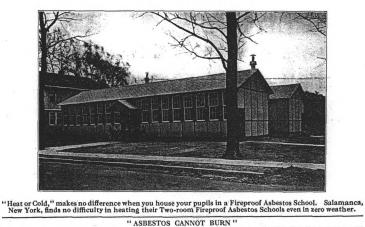


Figure 11. Layout of two-room schoolhouse from Asbestos Buildings Co. catalog, 1925. Note the

visual similarity of the front façade with Manitou Park School House's current façade.

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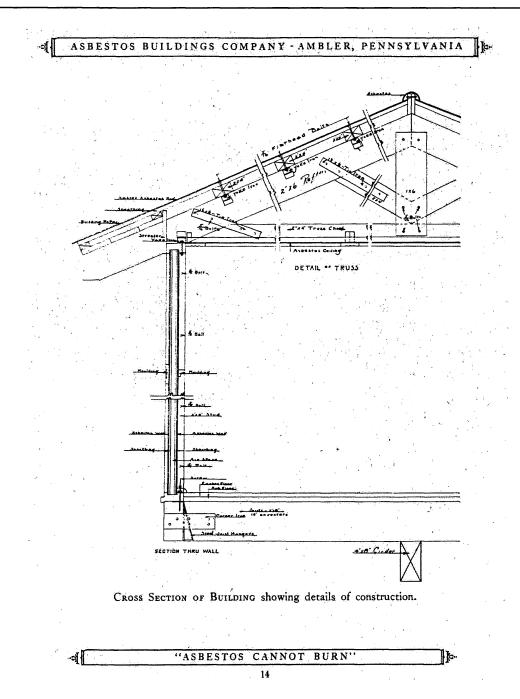


Figure 12. Cross-section of typical schoolroom manufactured by the Asbestos Buildings Company, from 1925 "Fireproof Ambler Asbestos School Buildings" catalog.

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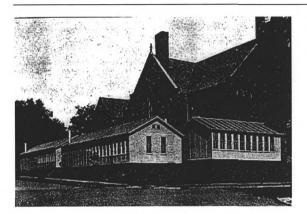


Figure 13. St. Peter's School, Mansfield, Ohio. Temporary portable school erected in 1923. Note modular elements similar to Manitou Park School House, thus most probably constructed with asbestos building materials. Building no longer extant.



Figure 14. Franklin Street School, Cape May, New Jersey. Built in 1927, this was a segregated school until 1948.

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Figure 15. Richardson Avenue School, Swedesboro, New Jersey. Built in 1925 as a Masonic Lodge, the African-American school was located on the first floor between 1931 and 1949.





Figures 16a and 16b. Court Street School, Freehold, New Jersey. Built in 1921, it was a "separate but equal" school until 1949.

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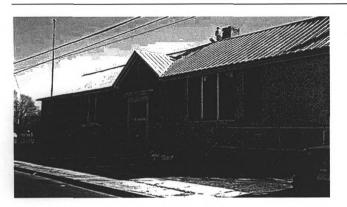


Figure 17. William R. Allen School, Burlington City, New Jersey. Built circa 1900, it served as a segregated school until the late 1940s and then, like Manitou Park School House, as an African-American neighborhood school until the 1960s.

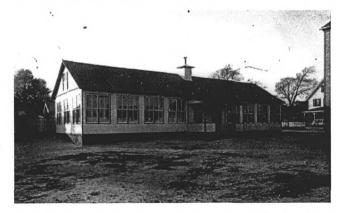


Figure 18. Center Street School, Tisbury, Massachusetts. Portable school, photograph undated. Building no longer extant.

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Figure 19. Coddington School, Quincy, Massachusetts. Portable school, photo dated February 1, 1923. Building no longer extant.



Figure 20. Milford White School, Milford, Delaware. Portable school for white students, photo dated November 20, 1920. Building no longer extant.

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Figure 21. Richardson Park White School, Richardson Park, Delaware. Portable school used for white students, photograph dated January 10, 1921. Building no longer extant. Based on historical images available, the Delaware school system employed similar plans for its white and "colored" schools, many resembling the Manitou Park School House 1931 plan of a centralized, pedimented entrance with two doors, opening onto a symmetrical two-roomed structure.

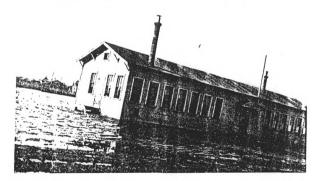


Figure 22. Ridgely School, Springfield Illinois. Temporary portable school, photograph dated February 1, 1927. Building no longer extant.

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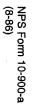
Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs:

- 3. Name of Photographer: Meredith A. Bzdak
- 4. Date of Photographs: June 23, 2004
- 5. Location of Negatives: New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

Item 6. Description of View:

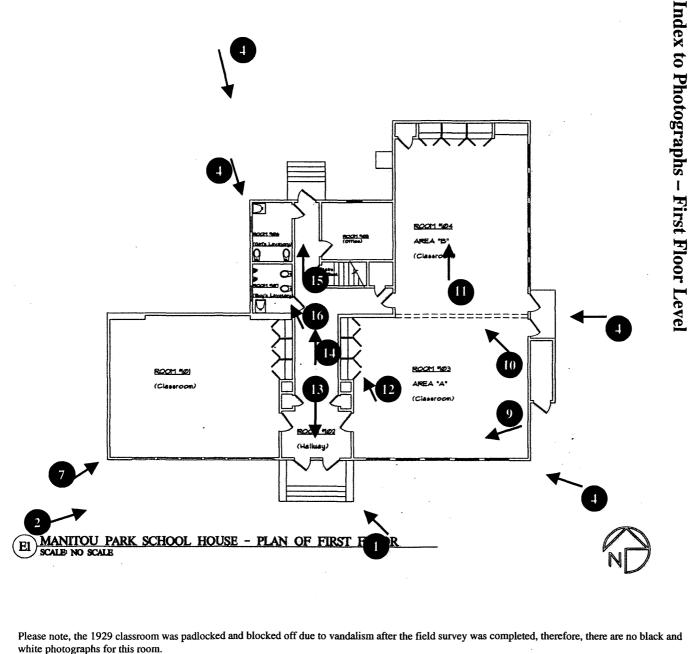
- Photo 1. South elevation, looking north
- Photo 2. South and west elevations, view looking northeast
- Photo 3. South and east elevations, view looking northwest
- Photo 4. East elevation, view looking west
- Photo 5. North elevation, view looking southeast
- Photo 6. North elevation detail, view looking southeast
- Photo 7. West elevation, view looking northeast
- Photo 8. Basement, view looking north
- Photo 9. 1931 classroom, view looking southwest
- Photo 10. Divider between 1931 and 1937 classrooms, view looking northwest
- Photo 11. 1937 classroom, view looking north
- Photo 12. 1931 classroom detail, view looking northwest
- Photo 13. Main hallway, view looking south
- Photo 14. Main hallway, view looking north
- Photo 15. Main hallway, view looking north
- Photo 16. Boys' bathroom, view looking northwest



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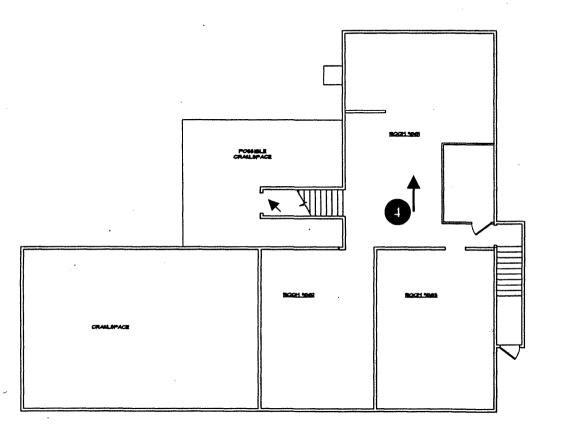
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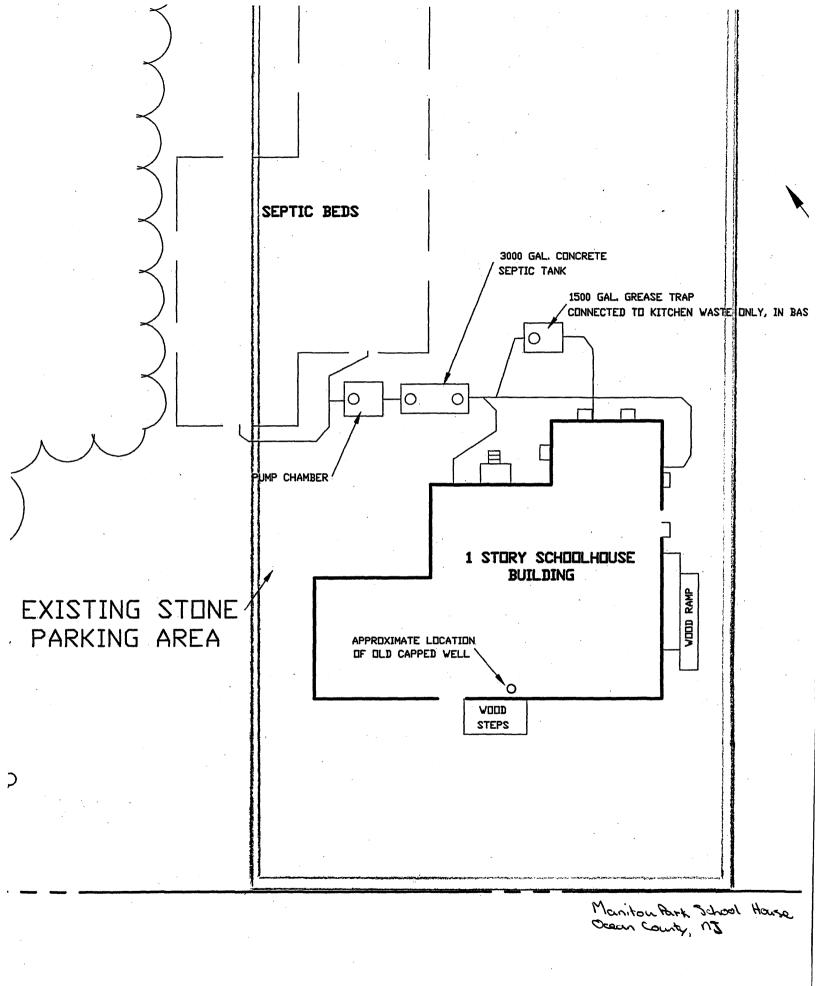
Index of Photographs – Basement Level



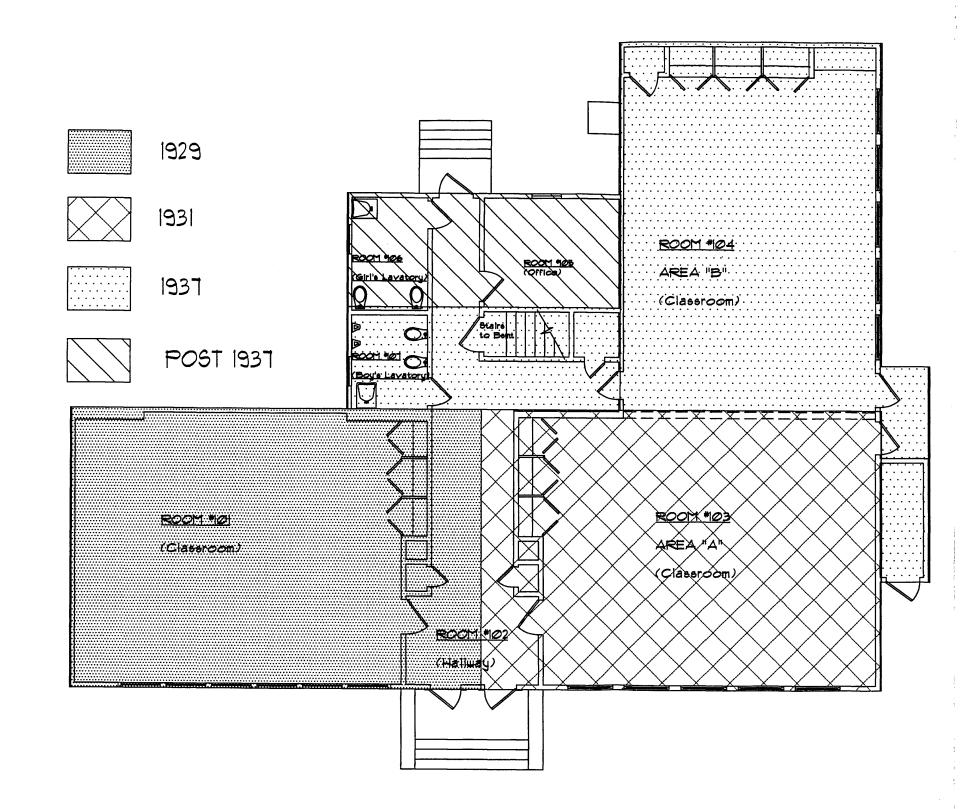
El MANITOU PARK SCHOOL HOUSE - BASEMENT scale: no scale



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D AVENUE (40' R.D.W.)

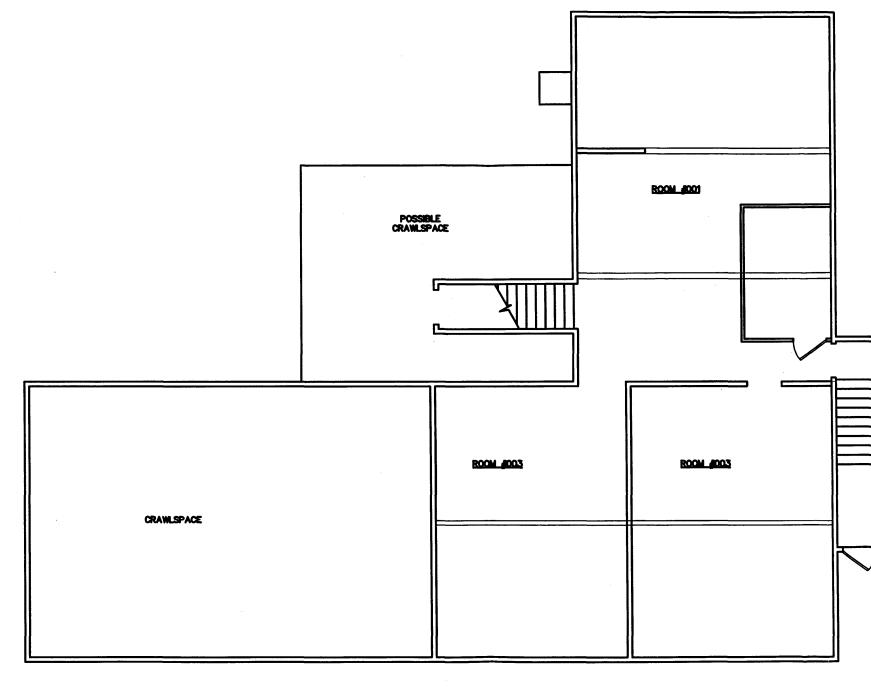


E1 MANITOU PARK SCHOOL HOUSE scale:1/8" = 1'-0"





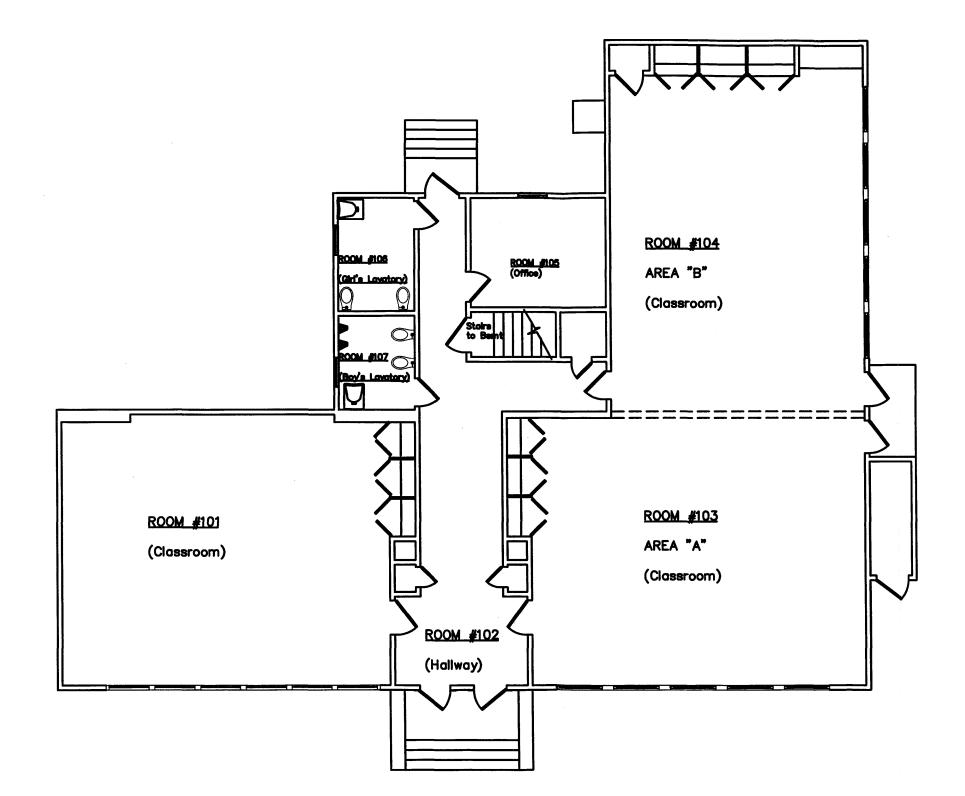
E1 MANITOU PARK SCHOOL HOUSE - BASEMENT SCALE:1/8" = 1'-0"







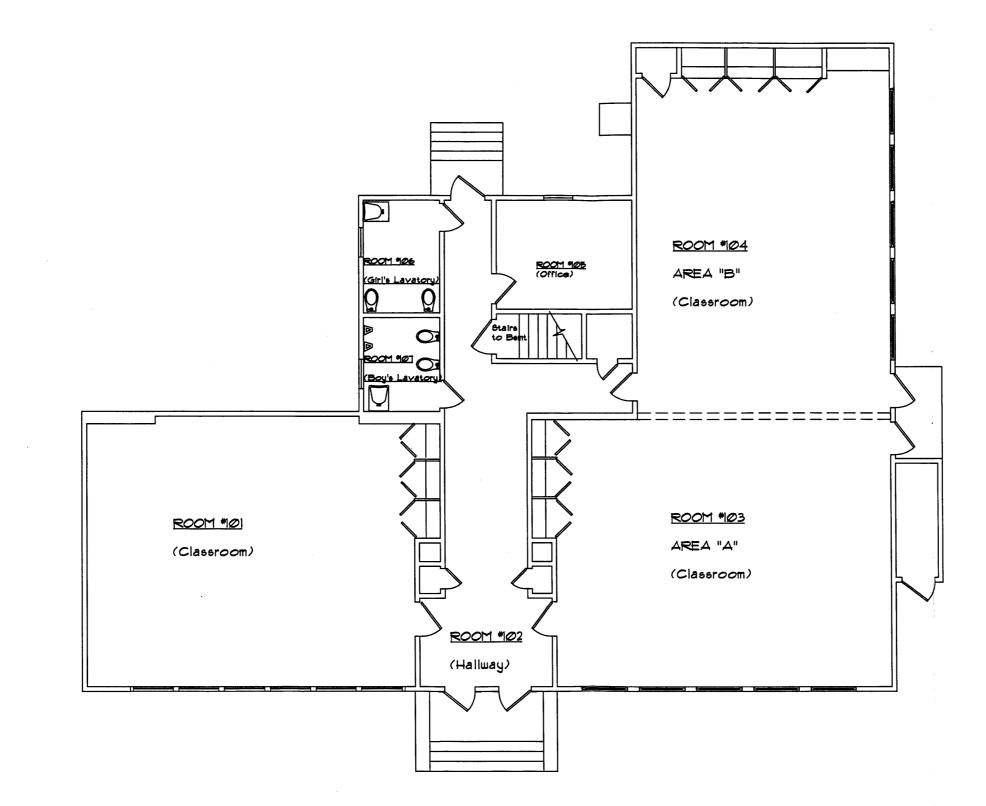




E1 MANITOU PARK SCHOOL HOUSE - PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR SCALE:1/8" = 1'-0"







E1 MANITOU PARK SCHOOL HOUSE - PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR SCALE:1/8" = 1'-0"



