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 *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 Cinnamin | son Avenue and Spring (| Garden Street School | .s |
| other names/site number | | | |
| | | | |
| 2. Location | | | |
| street & number Spring Garden | <u>Street between Cinnamir</u> | ison & Parry Avenues | |
| city, town Palmyra Borough | | | vicinity |
| state New Jersey code | 034 county Burling | gton code 005 | zip code 08065 |
| 3. Classification | | | |
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resou | rces within Property |
| private | xx building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| xx public-local | district | 2 | buildings |
| public-State | site | | sites |
| public-Federal | structure | | structures |
| public-redetal | = | | |
| | object | | objects |
| | | | 0Total |
| Name of related multiple property listing | ng: | | outing resources previously |
| N/A | | listed in the Natio | nal Register0 |
| 4. State/Federal Agency Certific | ation | | |
| | | | |
| As the designated authority under t | | | |
| X nomination request for deter | | | |
| National Register of Historic Places | | | |
| In my opinion, the property X mee | s not meet the Nationa | al Register criteria. 📖 See c | ontinuation sheet. |
| mm | KHUX | | 4/3/97 |
| Signature of certifying official | 1. 5 | • | Ďáte ^ℤ |
| Assistant Commissioner fo | or Natural & Historic R | esources/DSHPO | |
| State or Federal agency and bureau | | | |
| | | | |
| In my opinion, the property I mee | ts Ldoes not meet the Nationa | al Register criteria. 📖 See c | ontinuation sheet. |
| | | | |
| Signature of commenting or other official | al | | Date |
| | | | |
| State or Federal agency and bureau | | ······································ | |
| 5. National Park Service Certific | ation | intered 1s | the . |
| I, hereby, certify that this property is: | | wettenel l | Rogista |
| entered in the National Register. | 1 2 | 3 | |
| See continuation sheet. | Helorea | 1 Drun | 5/29/99 |
| | | / - J | _ - 10 1/1 - |
| determined eligible for the Nationa | | | / |
| Register. See continuation sheet. | | | |
| determined not eligible for the | | | |
| National Register. | | | |
| | _ | | |
| removed from the National Registe | r | | |
| other, (explain:) | | | |
| | | of the Verses | Data of Astion |
| | Signatu | re of the Keeper | Date of Action |

| 6. Function or Use | |
|---|--|
| Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) | Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) |
| EDUCATION/school | VACANT/not in use |
| | |
| 7. Description | |
| Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions) | Materials (enter categories from instructions) |
| | foundation _fieldstone |
| OTHER: vernacular institutional (19th C.) | walls <u>brick</u> |
| | roof <u>slate (1895)</u> |
| | other |
| | |
| | |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

| 8. Statement of Significance | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop | perty in relation to other properties: statewide x locally | |
| Applicable National Register Criteria 🗓 A 🔲 B 🔲 C | □D | |
| Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) | □D □E □F □G N/A | |
| Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Education | Period of Significance 1865 - 1895 | Significant Dates |
| Community Development | | 1877 |
| | | 1886 |
| | | 1895 |
| | Cultural Affiliation _N/A | |
| | 100.7 | |
| Significant Person None | Architect/Builder 1865: (unknown); 1895 | : Lowden, Louis F. |
| | | (contractor) |
| | | |

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

| | x See continuation sheet |
|---|--|
| Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A | |
| preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) | Primary location of additional data: |
| has been requested | State historic preservation office |
| previously listed in the National Register | Other State agency |
| previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark | Federal agency Local government |
| recorded by Historic American Buildings | University |
| Survey # | Other |
| recorded by Historic American Engineering | Specify repository: Palmyra Board of Education |
| Record # | Palmyra board of Education |
| 10. Geographical Data | |
| | , PA-NJ Quad |
| |) IN NO YUGU |
| UTM References A [1,8] [4 9,8 2,2,0] [4,4 2,7 2,0,0] Zone Easting Northing | |
| Zone Easting Northing | Zone Easting Northing |
| C | |
| | |
| | See continuation sheet |
| Verbal Boundary Description | |
| | |
| The property consists of Block 37, Lots 1 | and 1.01 of Palmyra Borough. |
| | |
| | |
| | X See continuation sheet |
| D. L. Lawrence | |
| Boundary Justification | |
| The nominated property is the entire prop | perty historically associated with the |
| use of the schools. | |
| | |
| | On a continue of the stand |
| | See continuation sheet |
| 11. Form Prepared By | |
| name/title Nan Pillsbury | |
| organization | date October 1991 |
| street & number 401 Mill Street | telephone <u>(609) 235-6080 (eves.&wkends</u> stateNJ zip code <u>08057</u> |
| city or town Moorestown | stateNJ zip code _08057 |

9. Major Bibliographical References

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, NJ

Section number ____7 Page ___0 Description Palmyra School Complex

DESCRIPTION

The Palmyra Public School Complex is a collection of two multi-story brick buildings, and includes the "Old School", constructed in 1865 and later expanded in 1877 and 1886, plus the "New School", entirely built in 1895. The Cinnaminson Avenue (1865) and Spring Garden School (1895) are nearly perpendicular to each other, the rear of each opens onto a common macadam-covered playground. Originally this area was divided into a boys' and girls' section separated by a high wooden fence. At the south end of the fence were outbuildings. Thankfully, in the early 1920's, toilet facilities were installed in the basement of the 1895 building. In the late 1930's, a small washroom was built in the earlier Cinnaminson building for the kindergarten classes.

Finally the outside playground became one with the removal of the fences and outbuildings. Also a hard surface was given to the playground, thus removing the awful mud the children were subjected to during rain and snow.

As described in a 1943 book on Burlington County Public Schools, (Ref. 9), the original walls were painted slate gray, but later changed to lighter colors. Gas jets were upgraded to electric light fixtures. Permanently affixed double desks gave way to modern movable single units.

SCHOOL EXTERIORS

Cinnaminson Avenue School, earliest portion 1865.

This school is a seven-bay two-story brick structure with an asbestos shingle roof. It has original 9/9 windows on the first floor and 6/6 on the 1886 second floor. The pitched roof runs parallel to Cinnaminson Avenue. There are semilunar air vents in the north and south gables (Photo No. 1). The building has one chimney.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, NJ

| Section number7 Page1 | Description Palmyra School Complex |
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Of the two-school complex of the early Palmyra elementary schools, the Cinnaminson Avenue School is the older. As its name implies, it faces Cinnaminson Avenue (Photos No. 2 & 3). According to the Borough and County records, (Refs. 1, 7, 9, and 11) it was constructed in three stages. The first was built in 1865, and the area is the present first floor, north end of the building (Photo No. 1). This room was supposed to accommodate 80 children, all eight grades, and taught by one teacher, a Miss Laura Hall. The second section was added in 1877 to the south end of the older structure and increased the capacity to accommodate 98 students. Finally, in 1886 the third and last addition was the entire second floor and two-story entry block with flat roof, facing Cinnaminson Avenue. The completed building would accommodate 264 pupils. The average attendance by 1889 was 248 students.

The back (easterly facade) (Photo No. 4) opens onto a playground shared with the 1895 school. The stone foundation is covered by mortar. As per the 1905 site map, the playground was still divided into Boys' and Girls' areas, with outbuildings for each at the south end of the dividing board fence. In fact, according to the 1943 writeup on Burlington County Schools (Ref. 9), it wasn't until the early 1920's that the fence was removed. At about the same time, boys' and girls' indoor restrooms were produced in the basement of the 1895 building.

1895 Spring Garden Street School Building.

This structure is a rectangular two-story brick building 11 bays wide and six bays deep, covered by a slate hip roof (Photos No. 14, 16 and 17). It was built in one complete phase. Two central chimneys were used as release for the steam heating system. The windows are Victorian 2/2 and have arched heads. The central 3-bay wide projecting entry block faces north to Spring Garden Street (Photo No. 15). The glazed, double-leafed main doors are headed by an arched transom. Spring Garden School has a stone foundation. It is oriented nearly perpendicular to the Cinnaminson Avenue School and, as indicated earlier, backs onto a common schoolyard/playground with the Cinnaminson school (Photo No. 18).

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Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

| Section number . | 7 | Page | 2 | Description | Palmyra | School | Complex |
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GENERAL FLOORPLANS

1865-86 Cinnaminson Avenue School

The main entry is into a central hall from Cinnaminson Avenue and runs to the back of the building, opening onto the playground (Photo No. 7). The oldest room is located on the north 1865 first floor portion, and it has been subdivided into smaller rooms for the kindergarten classes and offices (First floor Photo No. 1 and first floor left side of building Photo No. 2). The 1877 south room was used for a library. It has a small bathroom in the northeast corner.

The stairway to the second floor is one flight with no turns or landings (Photo No. 7), a spindle bannister which connects to a railing surrounding the stairwell (Photo No. 8). This railing has matching spindles to the bannister of the stairs (Photo No. 9).

The west end of the second floor hall has a small kitchen overlooking Cinnaminson Avenue (Left background, Photo. No. 9). On either side, small bathrooms were built, each of which has access from the larger classroom next to the hallway. The east end has windows overlooking the playground.

The northern area of the second floor has been divided into one large and two smaller classrooms. Over the 1877 first floor library, the large room is subdivided into a larger and smaller classroom.

In the basement, or foundation area, the space under the library (1877 room) is one large area (south side). Under the original 1865 unit on the north, there is a furnace well, fieldstone walls, and at its north wall is the location of the entrance to the connecting tunnel linking the Cinnaminson and Spring Garden schools.

1895 Spring Garden Street School

As with the Cinnaminson School, this building has a central hallway running from the back to front entries with classrooms on either side. The second floor is reached by two stairways approaching from the vestibules at the rear and main entrances up to the central area of the second floor hall. Four large equal-sized classrooms, two each on the east and west sides of the building, are located on both the first and second floors. On the second floor, the Principal's Office is located over the first floor entry (Photo No. 27), while a Teacher's Room is situated over the back vestibule (Photo No. 20).

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NPS Form 10-800-e

3MB Approve 46, 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

| Section | number | | Page | 3 | Description | Palmyra | School | Compl | ex |
|---------|--------|--|------|---|-------------|---------|--------|-------|----|
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INTERIORS

1865-86 Cinnaminson Avenue School

FIRST FLOOR ROOMS AND AREAS

The 1865 north room has been subdivided into a small kitchen, 8 x 10 feet, and three small rooms on the north and east walls, most recently used as offices. Even with these subdivisions, there is an open space area outside these rooms. At the southeast corner a 4 x 4 ft. 10 in bathroom has been added. These subdivisions were made after the 1977-78 final school year when the building became School Board offices. (Per Mrs. Chambley, Ref. 4)

The south 1877 room became a library which, in recent times has a false ceiling (Photos No. 5 and 6). The library contains a small bathroom at its northeast corner.

SECOND FLOOR ROOMS AND AREAS

On the easterly end of the second floor hall, a three-panel storage closet is located in the corner next to 6/6 windows overlooking the playground. At the opposite end is a kitchen (Photo No. 9) above Cinnaminson Avenue. The bathrooms outside the walls of the kitchen each contain a commode, a wash basin, and their access is from the larger classrooms. In the ceiling over one of these bathroom outer entry areas, plaster has dropped, revealing that the lath above is sawed, not hand-hewn, which is in keeping with the 1886 construction (see Photos No. 10).

The area above the 1877 extension has been subdivided into a larger room roughly 16 \times 25 feet (next to the hall) and roughly 12 \times 25 feet, overlooking the playground.

The original hot air furnace (1905 Sanborn map notation) was evidently replaced by steam heat, as shown by the radiators that are present in the room (photo No. 11)

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Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number ____7 Page ____4 Description Palmyra School Complex

BASEMENT AREA

The basement walls are of coursed fieldstone (Photo No. 12). The space under the south 1877 extension is one large open area. The furnace well on the north side measures 9×10 feet, and has cement floors as does the rest of the basement. A small ramp leads to the tunnel connecting the Cinnaminson with the Spring Garden building. The tunnel per se is 30 ft. 8 in. long (Photo 13).

1895 Spring Garden Street School

The internal division provided large classrooms for students, lighted by both a large number of windows on two sides of each room as well as light fixtures (Photo No. 24). Most of the classrooms had small storage closets in the corners. The original slate blackboards are still installed on the walls with little damage or cracking (Photo No. 22). Original illumination was by gas jets (Notations on 1905 Sanborn site map) later changed to modern electric fixtures (Ref. 9, 1943).

FIRST FLOOR ROOMS AND AREAS

As described in the General Floorplans, the classrooms are of equal size, two each to the side of a central hall. The size of these rooms is roughly 24 x 26 feet. The entrance doors to the classrooms are just off the vestibules both at the front and rear of the building. The students have access to hall closets for their clothes; large coat hooks protrude from the closet walls (Photo No. 21). The closets also have a second door which opens into each classroom. Between the north and south rooms of the same building side is a connecting door. This door allows access to the single fire escape door on the east or west side. Most of the original slate blackboards are still intact with little damage or cracking.

Stairs lead to the second floor from both the main entry and rear vestibules. A closet exists under the stairs at the south or rear portion, while stairs leading to the basement are under the north stairway.

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Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 5 Description Palmyra School Complex

Small closets and shelves were added to several of the rooms. Windows are present on two of the four room walls for each room, thus providing good lighting for the students. Original gas lights were later replaced with modern electric fixtures. (Notation on 1905 Sanborn site plan.)

SECOND FLOOR ROOMS AND AREAS

The classroom layout is similar to that of the first floor (Photos No. 24 and 25). The main difference is the location of the main entry doors to the rooms --- they open from the center of the hall rather than the end because of the presence of rooms at either end of the hall (Photo No. 19, right). Also, an open passageway is present between the south and north rooms on the western side of the building, i.e. the wall has been removed from this area.

The plaster had been removed from the wall next to the hall at the open area, and heat ducts can be seen (Photo No. 23). Measurements indicate that a similar duct system is present on the western side.

The doors to the classrooms are have six horizontal panels. Over each is a one-light transom (Photo No. 22).

The Principal's Office at the north end of the hallway (Photo No. 26) has book shelves and a closet (located at the back of a hall closet) (Photo No. 27). The room measures 9 1/2 x 16 1/2 feet. It contains the three windows seen over the three-bay block entry facing Spring Garden Street.

The Teachers' Room at the south end has the same area, but has two windows. In addition, a small bathroom is located at the west end of the room. Shelves are present on the east.

Fire escape doors are located on both floors, the center of the east and west walls of the building.

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Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 6 Description Palmyra School Complex

BASEMENT AREA

After descending the stairs from the first floor (Photo No. 28), the boys' and girls' bathrooms can be seen at the northeast and northwest corners of the basement (Photo No. 29). They measure 11 x 18 feet. Travelling in a southwest direction from the stairs, the furnace room is on the left, still containing the furnace (Photo No. 30). The outside walls are coursed rubble (Photo No. 31). At the southwest corner of the basement is the entrance to the tunnel connecting both school buildings. The tunnel is nearly four feet wide, 4 ft. and 10 inches high and 30 ft. 8 in. long.

SETTING

The Palmyra School Complex is located on a 0.87 A lot of ground. It is bounded on the north by Spring Garden Street, on the westerly side by Cinnaminson Avenue, and by Parry Avenue on the easterly line. The southerly boundary is that of private property. Private homes are located across the street from the schools on both Parry and Cinnaminson. Across Spring Garden Street on the north is a small triangular piece of land on which is the Palmyra Memorial Park to veterans. Trees surround the schools buildings on the grounds and nearby properties.

When the older school was first built, Spring Garden had not been cut through between Parry and Cinnaminson Avenues; the triangular property included the present memorial land. (See map from 1876). The school was one block from the Palmyra railroad stop (two blocks after Spring Garden cut through), located at the junction of Cinnaminson and Broad. The 1876 map also shows the ME church situated north from the school; this building is the present Town Hall and Police Station.

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Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 0 Significance Palmyra School Complex

SUMMARY

From the SHPO's determination of eligibility: "Palmyra Public School Complex is ...[an] impressive collection of two multi-story brick buildings including the 'Old School', constructed in 1865 and later expanded in 1877 and 1886, and the 1895 'New School'. Intact and relatively unaltered, this newer facility was built in direct response to important state legislation passed in 1888 and 1894 that successfully consolidated school districts to the township level. Although some deterioration has occurred, these buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity and are significant local examples of 19th century institutional architecture once so characteristic of the growing urban centers of New Jersey during this historic period."

"In addition, this complex of buildings clearly represents important 19th century innovations in public school administration and is strongly associated with successful development of Palmyra as a growing Philadelphia suburb during this historic period."

Both buildings were in continuous use from their construction in 1865 and 1895 until the end of the 1977-78 school year. The buildings are now vacant. Until the fall of 1990, the "Old School" was used as School Board administrative offices, while the 1895 school was used for storage.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough Burlington County, New Jersey

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The village of Palmyra was not known as such until about 160 years after the first land purchase in 1689 by Elias Toy. As part of Chester Township, it had been variously known as Rumtown, Jugtown and Haiti, because, according to legend, a black man named Samson Tillner operated a distillery at this location (Ref. 11). Development was slow in this farming area until 1834. According to Griscom (Ref. 7) "A single event -- the building of the Camden & Amboy Railroad through the region in 1833-34 -- was largely responsible for the coming of new villages, Palmyra and Riverton, and for the formation of a separate Cinnaminson Township by the division of old Chester."

The rail line allowed travelers to have year-round service between Philadelphia and New York with a combination train ride to Camden and then a ferry ride to Philadelphia via Cooper's Ferry. (Camden itself was called Cooper's Ferry until 1828 when it changed its name.) The ease of travel was shown in the reduction of travel time from two to three days with stage-boat and stage-coach to seven hours by locomotive-drawn trains, nine hours by horse-drawn trains, and with a one-way fare of \$3.

The first formal name became Texas in 1845 after Texas became a state in that year and local townsmen wished to honor the statehood. This name was on the railroad stop tickets until 1849 when Isaiah Toy, who owned a great deal of stock in the Camden and Amboy Railroad, wanted the name changed to the biblical reference name of Palmyra on the tickets. Further, when he applied for a post office in 1850, he requested and received the same, also under the name of Palmyra. (The Post Office was established on August 4, 1851.) The first notice of the name Palmyra on a map was in 1849, which coincides with the above occurrences. (See submitted map of 1849.)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number ___8 Page __2 Significance Palmyra School Complex

The United States Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia in 1876 was responsible for bringing a third wave of new residents. The records indicate that the Palmyra population was 300 in 1876, and by 1883, it had doubled to 600.

The first public school in the area was a one-room brick building built in 1822, and it served the Palmyra-Riverton communities. Located at Elm Street where the railroad would eventually cross, it was moved a short distance away in 1833 to avoid immediate demolition. Later it became C. P. Dilks blacksmith shop until it was taken down in 1898 (Ref. 7).

New schools were built in 1865, including the Cinnaminson Avenue School. Palmyra's population growth increased from 100 in 1850 to 150 in 1856, 231 in 1860, and to 250 residents in 1865. The schools were needed earlier, but construction was postponed until the Civil War came to an end.

When Cinnaminson became a separated from Chester Township in 1860 by New Jersey Legislation March 15, 1860 (Ref. 7), Palmyra became a part of this new township. Therefore in 1865, the Trustees of School Board of District No. 2 of Cinnaminson (Charles Lowden, John S. Morgan and John Wallace), were actually officers in the school district of Palmyra. They purchased the land on which the schools are located from the Isaiah Toy heirs in 1865. This district voted to build a one-room, one story brick school which would accommodate 80 pupils for grades one through eight. The records show that attendance was about 50%, which made it easier for the one teacher, Miss Laura Hall, to be able to instruct all the pupils that attended.

In 1871, the New Jersey Legislature passed a Free School Law, limited to grade schools, but which helped finances considerably for those townships which had a "haphazard way" of funding constructions of schools or additions (Ref.7).

As the population rapidly increased to 300 in 1876, school attendance grew so fast it was necessary to add a second room on the south side of the 1865 school in 1877 at a cost of \$1200. This new room increased the capacity to 98 students. By 1883, the daily attendance has risen to 115 when the population had grown to 600. Accordingly, on April 24, 1886, the school board authorized by unanimous vote of the citizens at the town meeting to add a second story to the original building at a cost of \$3000. Bonds were issued for 12 years, payable at \$250 annually, 5% interest (Ref. 5).

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Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

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In 1894 two events occurred which influenced the Palmyra school system. First, Palmyra was created as a Township separated from Cinnaminson by New Jersey State Assembly Bil #229, introduced by a Mr. Stecher on March 26, 1894, and became law on April 19, 1894 when signed by Governor George S. Werts (Ref. 5). This new entity was formed with parts of Riverton Borough and Cinnaminson Township. (In 1923, Palmyra Township incorporated to become Palmyra Borough.)

The second notable event of 1894 was new State legislation setting the stage for development of high schools. Spurred by this enactment, Palmyra made plans for a new school, with visions of a high school soon afterwards.

In August, 1895 an agreement was drawn up a contractor Louis F. Lowden for the erection of the eight-room brick Spring Garden Street School building on land adjacent to the site of the old building. The total cost, including furniture plus purchase of the property, was included in the \$12,000 appropriation. Again, bonds were issued and were to be paid off at \$1000 yearly, the last one to be cancelled on October 1, 1910. Louis F. Lowden was the successful bidder on the work. The 1895 Spring Garden Street School was built on land adjacent to the 1865 school, and it was constructed all at one time (Ref. 5).

Some high school classes were held in two rooms of the new building. Beginning in 1899, a three-year high school course was initiated, graduating its first class in 1902. The 1900 high school class was was organized as a four-year course, and their first graduation was held in 1904. These high school classes remained at the Spring Garden School until 1907 when they had outgrown the space allotted them. This necessitated moving the high school students to Berkeley Hall, a closed private school for girls located at 4th and Elm Streets. They remained there until the new high school building was erected in 1909-10 (Ref. 11).

After the high school classes were moved out of the Spring Garden School, all eight classrooms became occupied by the elementary school children. At the time of the schools' closure in the 1977-78 school year, the 1895 Spring Garden School housed grades one through four, two rooms each grade. The 1865-86 Cinnaminson Avenue School contained grades five, the kindergarten and the library. The student population of the two schools, grades K-5th grades, had a combined enrollment of over 325 pupils.

NPS Form 10-800-6

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 4 Significance Palmyra School Complex

A fire, which began in the basement of the Cinnaminson Avenue School in February, 1933, threatened to destroy this educational landmark, but it was able to be saved. Although there was water damage plus severe smoke damage throughout the building which again required students to attend the closed Berkeley School for six to eight weeks until it was refurbished, there was no structural damage (Ref. 4).

When the last year for students came to a close at the end of the 1977-1978 school period, the two old schools has been in continuous usage for Palmyra education from 1865 and 1895, or 113 and 83 years, respectively.

One of the most interesting aspects of the schools in regard to construction and use is the existence of the connecting tunnel running from one basement to the other. It has a brick-surfaced arched ceiling, 4 ft. 10. in height, and is 30 ft. 8 in. long. The walk area is still dirt, covered by loose boards. As far as is known, this tunnel is unique in adjacent school connections in New Jersey. Muriel Chambley, teacher from 1929 to 1977-1978 school year, and later principal, remembers when she was "a little girl of half past five" and having to take a message to the office through the tunnel. She was frightened because she had been told there were "ghosts, rats and snakes waiting in the dark corners near the tunnel". A friendly custodian saved the day by taking her hand and escorting her through the dreaded tunnel (Ref. 2). (See news article about Mrs. Chambley when she was a child attending Palmyra schools.)

After the 1977-78 school year, the 1865 Cinnaminson Avenue School ("Old School") became the Palmyra School Board Offices. The 1895 Spring Garden Street School was used for storage. The single classrooms of the "Old School" were subdivided in preparation for the increased number of rooms required for their new office use.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number ___8 Page __5 Significance Palmyra School Complex

Aside from a number of persons who became notable after they received their education from the schools of the nominated Palmyra School Complex, Mrs. Muriel B. Chambley was a notable teacher/principal at the old buildings per se. Moving from Philadelphia to Palmyra when she was two years old, she first attended the Cinnaminson and Spring Garden Schools as a student (Ref. 2), later returning as a teacher in 1929. For twenty years Mrs. Chambley was assistant principal, then Acting Principal from 1974 to the buildings' closure to students after the 1977-1978 school year. Following the 1973-1974 school year, Mrs. Chambley was selected as the "Outstanding Educator in America" by the Academy of American Educators.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

| Section | number | 9 | Page | 1 | Major | Bibliographical | References | |
|---------|--------|---|------|---|-------|-----------------|------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | |

- 1. Bisbee, H.H. 1971. "Palmyra Borough", p. 182 in "Sign Posts".
- 2. Chambley, M. B. 1970. "Spring Garden Tunnel Unchanged," p. 8 in The 130 Journal, January 7th edition.
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough, Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 1 Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary description is for Lot No. 1 , the Cinnaminson Ave. School, and Lot No. 1.01, the Spring Garden Street School. The combination of these two lots is shown as Lot 1 on Block 37 of the most recent tax map.

Lot No. 1. BEGINNING at a drill hole in the Easterly line of Cinnaminson Avenue (50.0 ft. wide) distant 93.47 ft. Southwardly from the point of the intersection of the same with the Southerly line of Spring Garden Street; and extends thence

- (1) along other land of Borough of Palmyra Board of Education, North 74 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds East a distance of 60.0 feet to point; thence
- (2) still along the same, South 15 degrees 41 minutes 30 seconds East, a distance of 48.0 feet to a point; thence
- (3) still along the same, North 74 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds East a distance of 125.84 feet to a point in the Westerly line of Parry Ave. (50.0 feet wide); thence
- (4) along the latter, South 37 degrees 30 minutes East, a distance of 70.01 feet to a point corner to land now or formerly of Barry S. Perlman; thence
- (5) along the land of the latter, South 74 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds West, a distance of 211.85 feet to a rebar in the aforesaid Easterly line of Cinnaminson Ave.; thence
- (6) along the latter, North 15 degrees 41 minutes 30 seconds West, a distance of 113.0 feet to the aforesaid point and place of the BEGINNING.
 - CONTAINING 15,804.61 sq. ft. of land, more or less.

Lot No. 1.01.BEGINNING at a drill hole at the point of intersection of the Easterly line of Cinnaminson Ave. (50.0 ft. wide) with the Southerly line of Spring Garden Street (50.0 feet wide); and extends thence

- (1) along the said Southerly line of Spring Garden st., North 52 degrees 30 minutes East, a distance of 119.98 ft. to a point in the Southerly line of Parry Ave. (50.0 wide); thence
- (2) along the latter, South 37 degrees 30 minutes East, a distance of 200.39 ft. to a point corner to land of Borough of Palmyra Board of Education; thence
- (3) along the land of the latter, South 74 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds West, a distance of 125.84 ft. to a point; thence

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough Burlington County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 2 Verbal Boundary Description

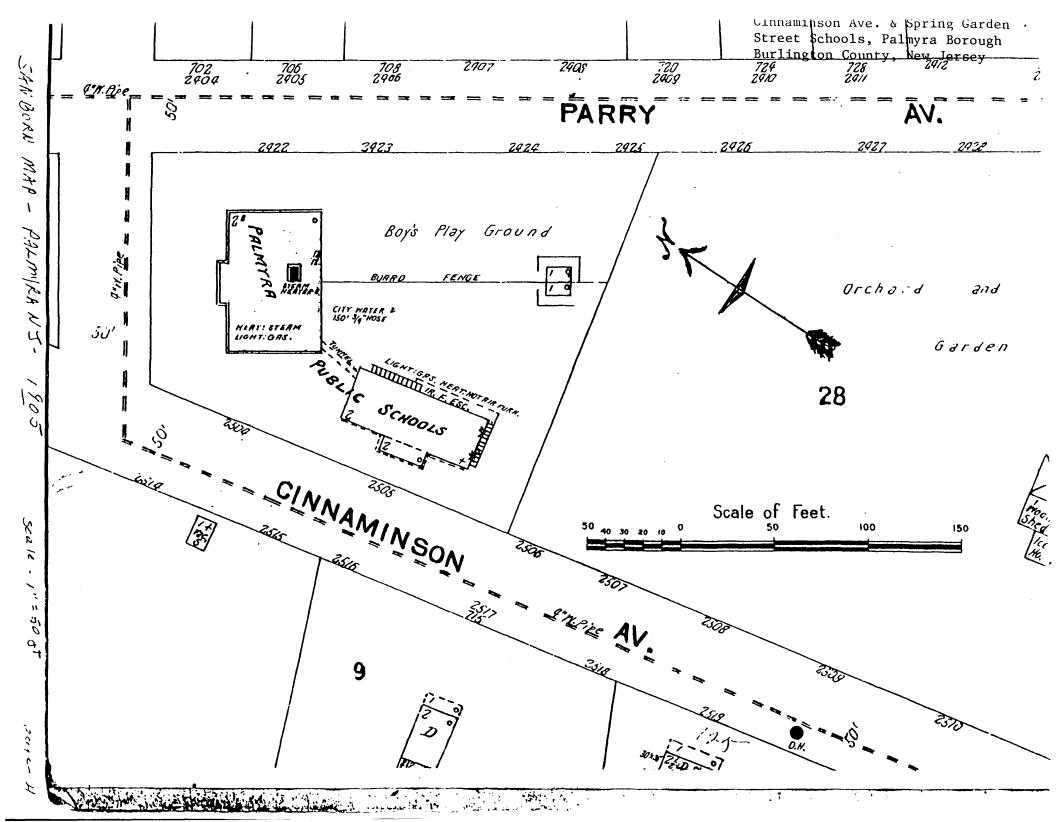
(4) still along the same, North 15 degrees 41 minutes 30 seconds West, a distance of 48 ft. to a point; thence

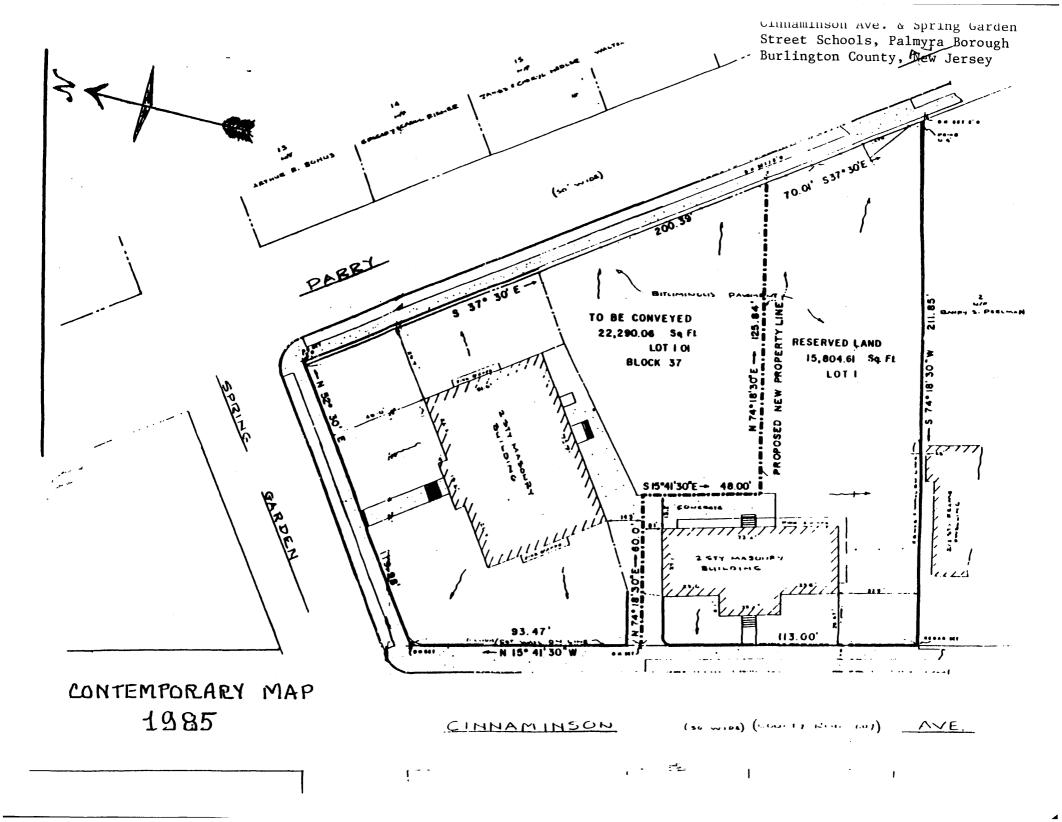
(5) still along the same, South 74 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds West, a distance of 60.0 ft. to a drill hole in the aforesaid Easterly line of Cinnaminson Ave.; thence

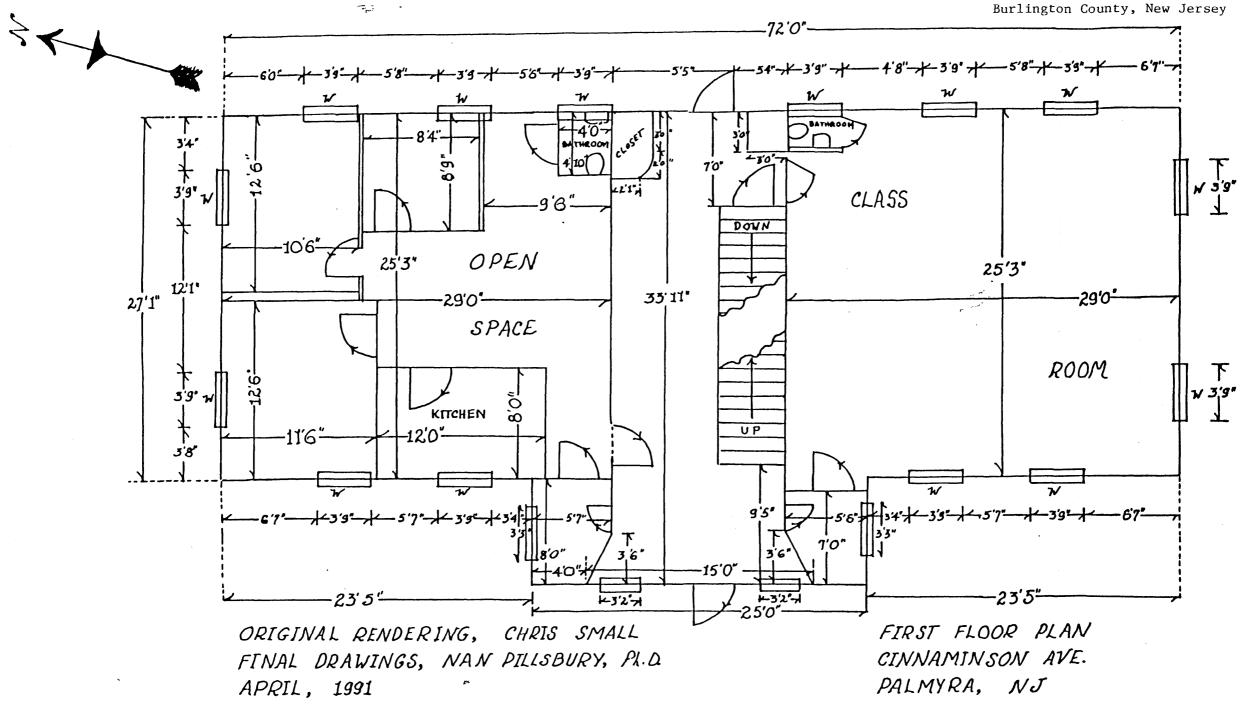
(6) along the latter, North 15 degrees 41 minutes 30 seconds West, a distance of 93.47 ft. to the aforesaid point and place of the BEGINNING.

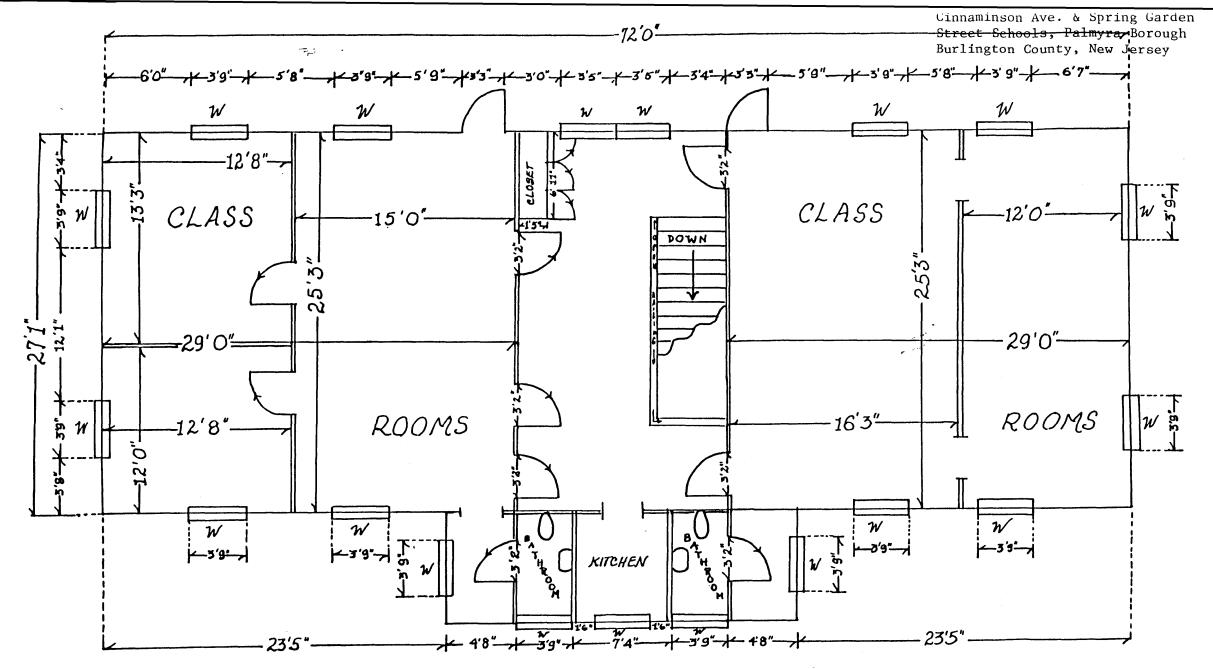
- CONTAINING 22,290.06 sq. ft. of land, more or less.

Making a total of 38,094.67 sq. ft. or 0.87 A of land.



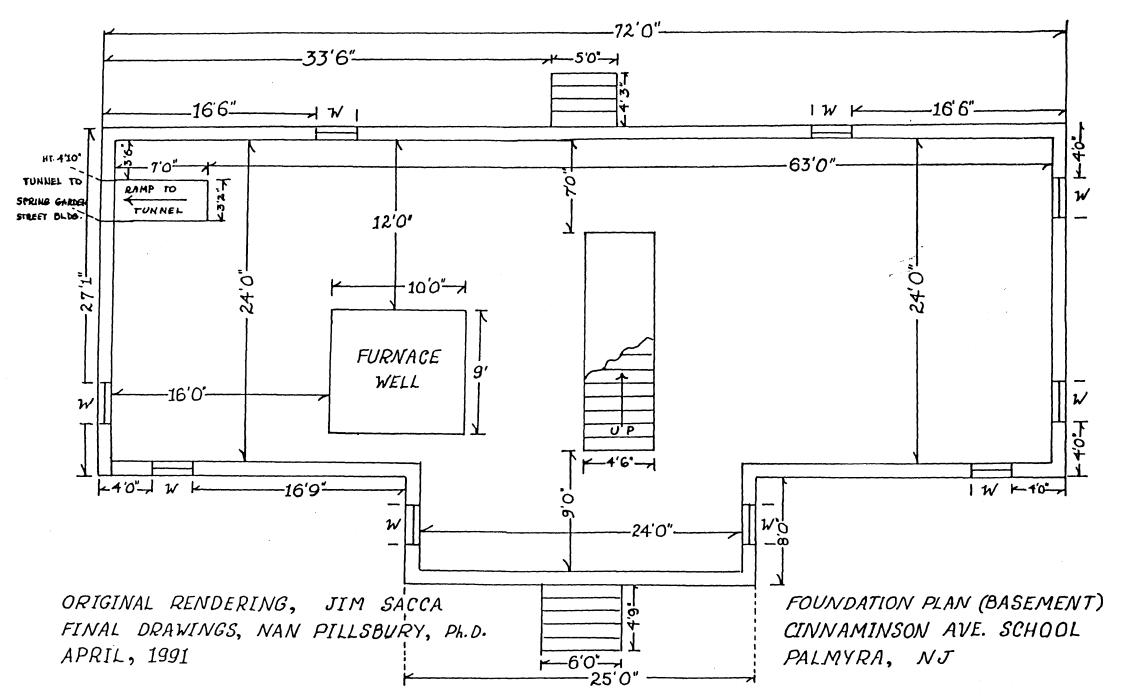


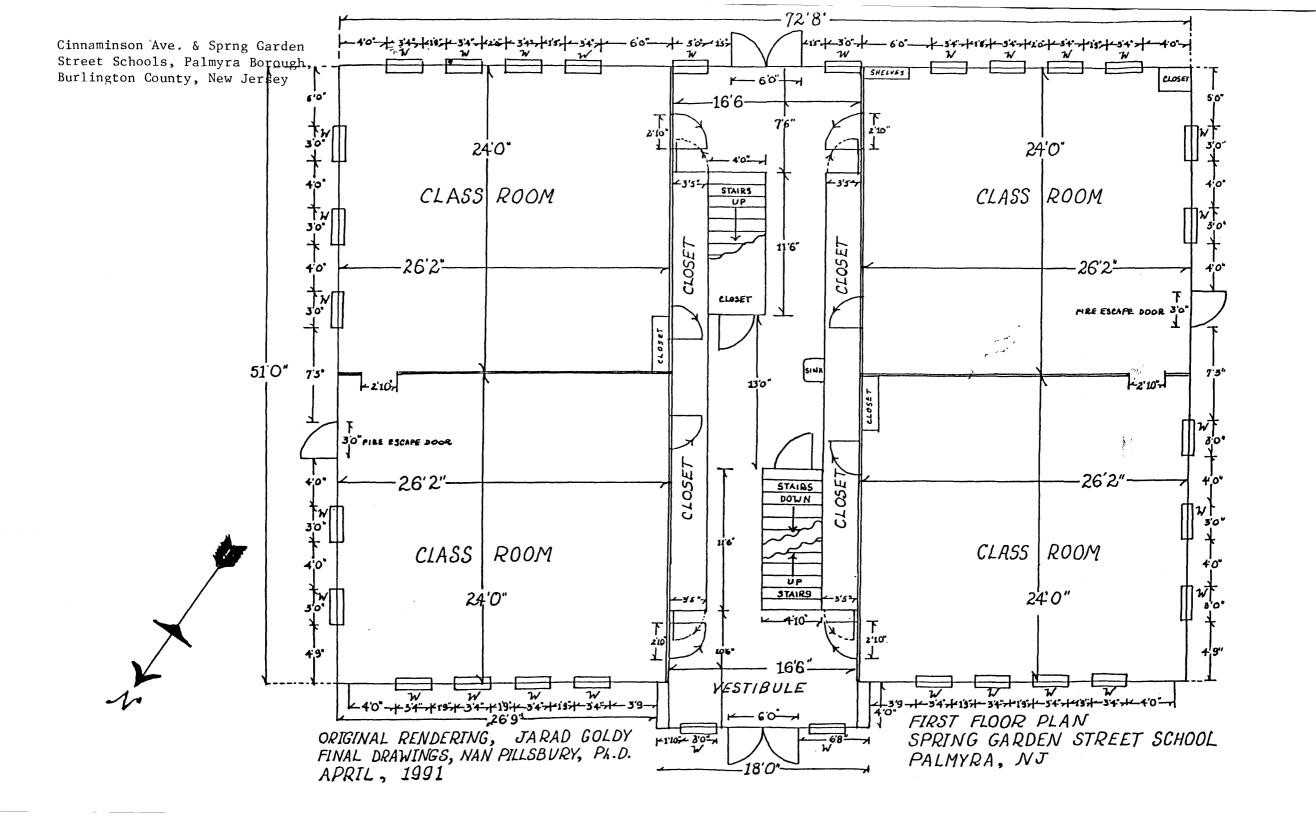


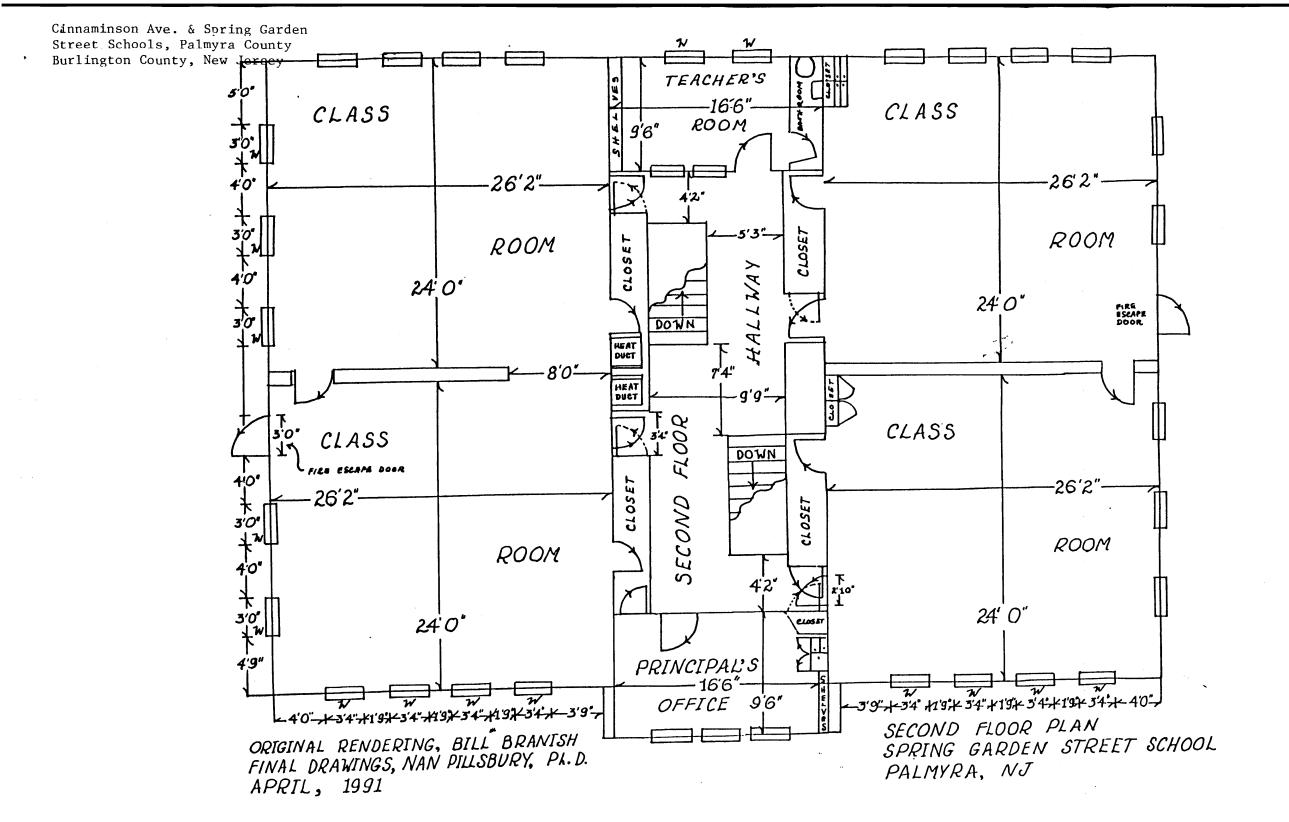


ORIGINAL RENDERING, MIKE BARLOW FINAL DRAWINGS, NAN PILLSBURY, PL.D. APRIL, 1991

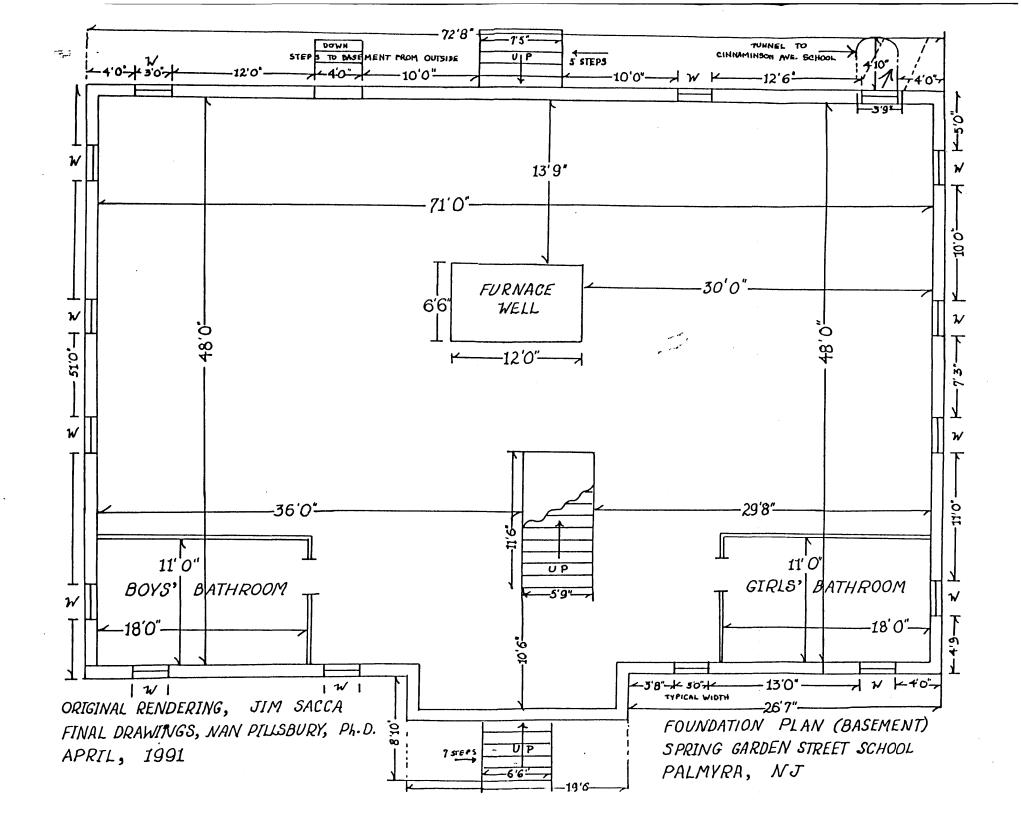
SECOND FLOOR PLAN CINNAMINSON AVE. SCHOOL PALMYRA, NJ

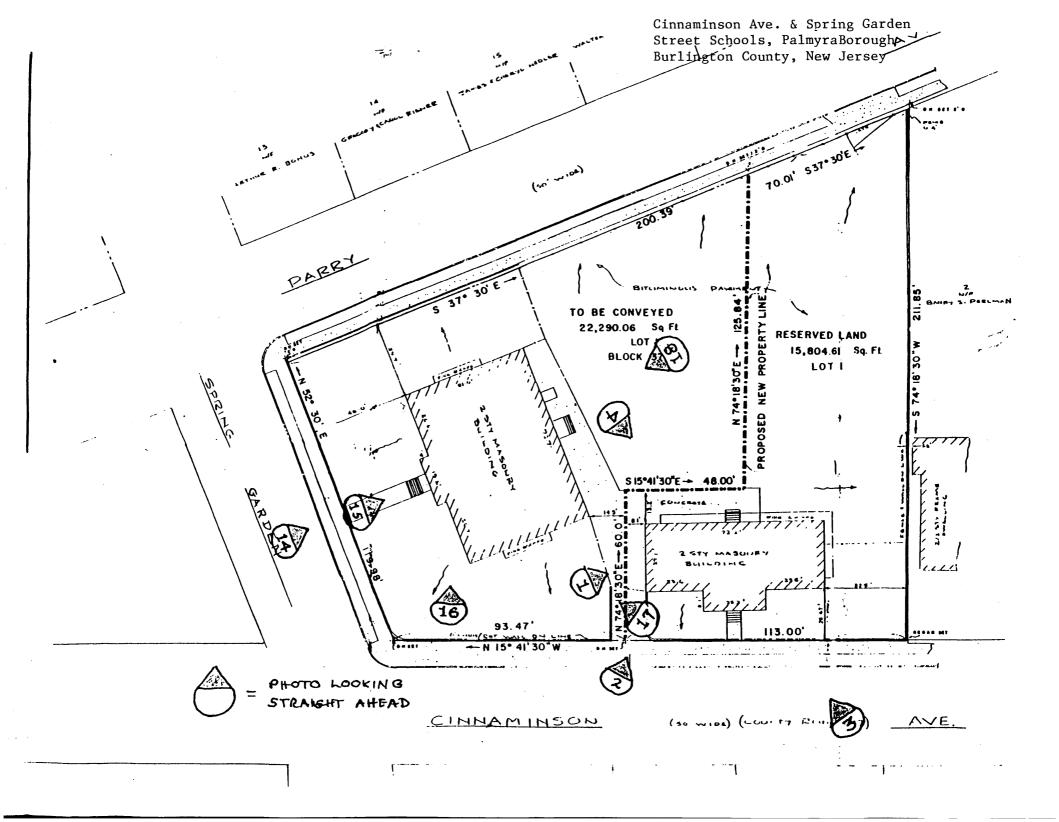


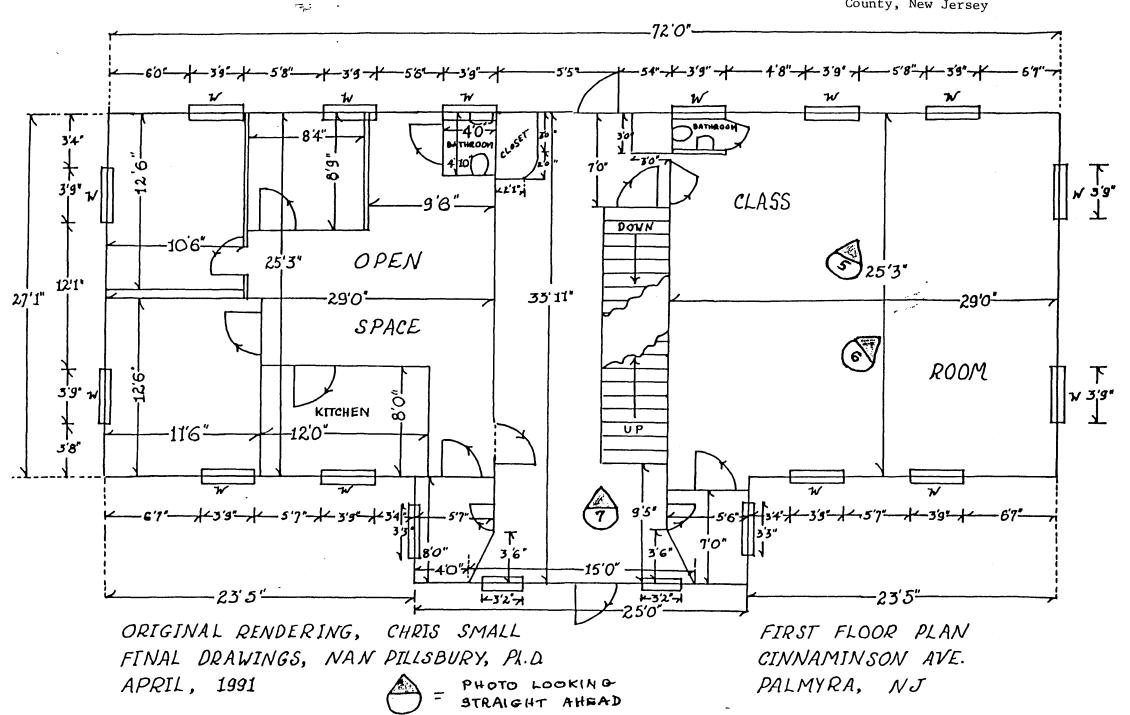


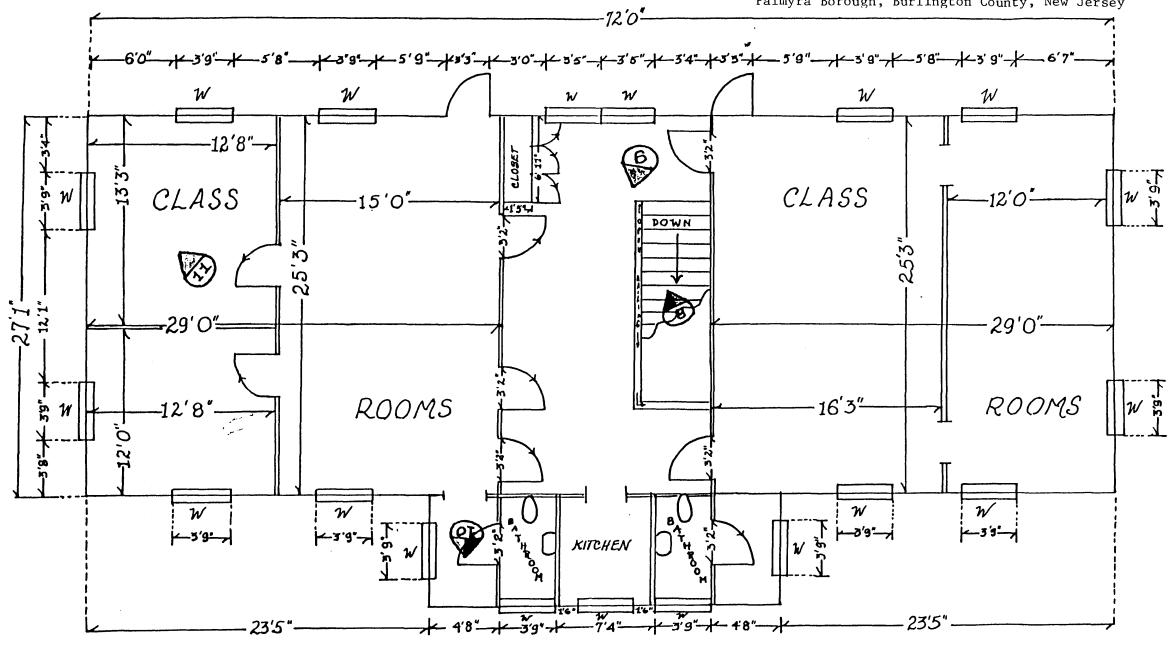


Cinnaminson Ave. & Spring Garden Street Schools, Palmyra Borough Burlington County, New Jersey.









ORIGINAL RENDERING, MIKE BARLOW
FINAL DRAWINGS, NAN PILLSBURY, PL.D.
APRIL, 1991

SECOND FLOOR PLAN CINNAMINSON AVE. SCHOOL PALMYRA, NJ

