

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000741 Date Listed: 8/12/93

John G. Whittier School  
Property Name

Maricopa County                      AZ State

Educational Buildings in Phoenix MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* *Antoniella Alice*  
Signature of the Keeper

8/12/93  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Statement of Significance:** The Period of Significance is amended to read 1929-1942.

This information was confirmed with Reba Wells of the Arizona State historic preservation office.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

**1. Name of Property**

historic name John G. Whittier School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 2004 N. 16th Street not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Phoenix vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code AZ 013 zip code 85006

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J. Garrison AZSAPD 6/23/93  
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Autumneth Alee 8/12/93  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
    National Register  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
    National Register  
 removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

fr Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

| Contributing | Noncontributing  |
|--------------|------------------|
| <u>1</u>     | _____ buildings  |
| _____        | _____ sites      |
| _____        | _____ structures |
| _____        | _____ objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u> Total   |

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

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

Educational Buildings in Phoenix, Arizona, from Early Settlement to 1942

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)Renaissance

|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)foundation CONCRETEroof ASPHALTwalls BRICKCONCRETE

other \_\_\_\_\_

|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
|-------|

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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.)

- 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.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1871-1942  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** 1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** Lescher & Mahoney  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 12 | 402680  | 3703690  | 3    | _____   | _____    |
| 2    | _____   | _____    | 4    | _____   | _____    |

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jim Woodward, Architect & Patsy Osmon, Associate Historian  
organization Woodward Architectural Group date September 1991  
street & number 398 South Mill Avenue, Suite 202 telephone (602) 829-7571  
city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85281

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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

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

**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

John G. Whittier School

name of property

Maricopa/Arizona

county and State

Educational Buildings in Phoenix, Arizona, from Early  
name of multiple property listing Settlement to 1942

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**Description**

The John G. Whittier School was constructed in 1929. It was designed by local architects Lescher & Mahoney. The building is constructed in the Second Renaissance Revival architectural style and represents the Custom Architecturally Designed Schoolhouse property type. The school retains integrity of its design including stylistic elements, plan configuration and massing. It also retains integrity of construction materials and building details. It has a compatible one-story, brick addition extending from the rear at the north end of the original building. The John G. Whittier School has been in continuous use as a school from 1929 to the present day.

The John G. Whittier School faces east onto North 16th Street. The site is characterized by a grass yard with mature trees at the front and by asphalt and concrete surfaces at the rear. The school yard is surrounded by wrought iron fence. No outbuildings are located on the site.

The John G. Whittier School is a symmetrical, two-story building of brick construction. The walls are sheathed with brick and concrete. The rectangular structure measures 150 x 60 feet. The hip roof features gabled ventilator dormers and is covered with rolled asphalt. It has a concrete foundation.

Exterior features include a three part facade centered about a slightly projecting frontispiece. Design elements of that central bay include a rusticated cast stone veneer, central entry with cast stone architrave, and a band of five windows on the second story set in a colonade and framed with quoins. The brickwork at the principal facade is distinguished by a diamond shaped tapestry pattern. A cast stone cornice band extends along the facade at window sill height and is broken only by two tabernacle frames containing cast stone busts of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

A ca. 1940 single story wing is located at the north end of the west, or rear, facade. It is of brick construction with a gable roof with a veranda on the south wall. An extension of that wing, also constructed of brick, was built in the 1970s.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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John G. Whittier School

name of property

Maricopa/Arizona

county and State

Educational Buildings in Phoenix, Arizona, from Early  
name of multiple property listing Settlement to 1942

**Statement of Significance**

The John G. Whittier School is significant under Criteria A in the area of significance of Education. Built in 1929, the John G. Whittier School is associated with the first large increase in enrollment and the corresponding boom in school construction in Phoenix School District #1 in the 1920s and therefore represents the historic context "Education in Phoenix, 1871-1942." The John G. Whittier School is an excellent illustration of its property type, the Custom Architecturally Designed Schoolhouse. The building possesses the important characteristics of the property type specifically the combination of standardized functional criteria with a mainstream, highly articulated architectural style to form one unified architectural statement.

Between 1920 and 1930 Phoenix's population expanded from 29,053 in 1920 to 48,118 in 1930. A direct result of this increase in population was a corresponding increase in school age children. In Phoenix School District #1, for example, enrollment increased 22% between the 1920 and 1921 school year and 13% between the 1924 and 1925 school year.

As early as 1920 it became apparent to Phoenix School District #1 officials that existing school facilities could not accommodate the increased enrollment. In response to this situation, Phoenix School District #1 voters passed four separate bond issues between 1920 and 1930 totaling more than 1.4 million dollars. This money was to be used to expand existing schools and construct new schools. Built in 1929, the John G. Whittier School represents a school constructed by Phoenix School District #1 during this period of expansion. It served the children of the new residential neighborhoods of east central Phoenix.

The John G. Whittier School is a good representation of the Custom Architecturally Designed Schoolhouse property type. The School exemplifies the early twentieth century movement toward specialized design and spatial organization of school buildings, including multiple classrooms accessed by central corridors along the building's horizontal axis, and specialized rooms for libraries, and teaching and administrative offices. The Whittier School also illustrates the most common stylistic treatment for building's of this property type that were built after 1920. The building represents a freely interpreted version of the Second Renaissance Revival style with elements drawn from a variety of Italian modes.

Elements of the Second Renaissance Revival architectural style as represented in the John G. Whittier School include the central frontispiece with cast stone block design, the Italian entrance architrave, the second story colonade, the window arrangement giving the impression of a balcony, the tapestry brick, and the cast stone busts.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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John G. Whittier School

name of property

Maricopa/Arizona

county and State

Educational Buildings in Phoenix, Arizona, from Early  
name of multiple property listing Settlement to 1942

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**Bibliography**

Arizona Republic. Phoenix, Arizona, 1890-1942, Various Issues.

Kotlanger, Michael J. "Phoenix, Arizona, 1920-1940." Ph.D. diss., Arizona State University, 1983.

Phoenix City Directories, Phoenix, Arizona, 1889-1942.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1976.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is located in Lot 4 of the Ranchitos Bonitos subdivision.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the original school site which has historically been associated with the property.