

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0686301

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 19 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Scotch Plains School

AND/OR COMMON

Public School Number 1

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Park Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Scotch Plains

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Union

CODE

039 *ok*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>unoccupied</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Scotch Plains Board of Education

STREET & NUMBER

Plainfield Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Scotch Plains

STATE

New Jersey

— VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elizabeth

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (2745.12)

DATE

1978

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1890, the Scotch Plains Public School Number 1 is a 2 1/2 story hip-roofed brick educational building of a rectangular block form with two projecting center pavilions.

The street elevation has five bays -- a center round-arched one story entrance, framed by cross gable 3 bay over 4 bay (originally 3 bays) pavilions with elliptical windows in the shingled gables, and completed by the two final bays of the block form.

The hip roof with overhanging bracketed eaves is capped by a frame cupola. This roof is interrupted by the two cross gables of the pavilions which are incorporated into the overall building as a single unit.

The first floor windows were originally 2/2 sash with flat arches, but state law in the 20th century required additional lighting resulting in the opening and lengthening of the ground floor fenestration. All windows are currently boarded over for security purposes. The arches of the windows on the second floor are round while those on the first floor are flat. Above the entrance vestibule is a terra cotta emblem with the wording "Scotch Plains School."

The side facade has alternating single window and then double windows.

The foundation of the school is random stone with a full basement floor. The center entrance opens to a T-form hall with stairway at the rear. The hall extends along the side facade and opens to a double door at the center of that facade. Perpendicular to this hall is a long narrow hallway to the rear classrooms. There are three full floors including the basement totalling some 27 rooms with 17 classrooms. The ceilings are a uniform 13'6" throughout.

Situated on approximately two acres of level land in the central business district of Scotch Plains, the property is aesthetically landscaped with numerous shrubs close to the building and various large trees around.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT McKim, Mead, and White

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Scotch Plains School was designed by architects McKim, Mead, and White according to Richard Guy Wilson, Assistant Professor of Architectural History at the University of Virginia (3/20/1978 telephone conversation with Prof. Wilson who completed PhD dissertation on McKim, Mead, and White). Of a vaguely Georgian Revival style of architecture, this is an excellent example of late 19th century educational architecture.

Professor Wilson writes that the building appears in the McKim, Mead, and White Bill Book, #3, p.393, under the date of December 10, 1889. The bill books are located in the New York Historical Society. The commission is for only 2 1/2% of \$18,000 indicating that the firm prepared only the plans and probably did not supervise construction.

Wilson says of the building:

"The schoolhouse is a good example of McKim, Mead, and White's attempt to make a bow to the local history of the area with its Colonial details, cupola and roof. At the same time it has elements of their more formal Renaissance idiom, in the reiterated gables, round headed windows and entrance arch. The building is one of a line they designed in the period, other examples are: Fayerweather Lab, at Amherst College, 1891-1894; and Salem High School, Naugatuck, Connecticut, 1894. Since the firm did relatively little work in New Jersey, especially in the later years, this building would be a significant landmark, if for no other reason. It is a good example of McKim, Mead, and White architecture from the late 1880's as they were moving towards a more formal and heroic interpretation of America's destiny."

Education

The oldest public school building in Scotch Plains, this educational edifice reflects the development of educational thought at the turn of the century from the smaller one room schools of a locale to that of a regional school which could, in a large structure, provide superior facilities and professionals. This facility functioned as a school until the 1970's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rawson, Marion Nicholl. Under the Blue Hills: Scotch Plains, New Jersey.
Plainfield, NJ, 1974 (pp.97, 186).

Original photograph of Scotch Plains School. ca. 1890. Files of Office of
Historic Preservation, Trenton, NJ.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

QUADRANGLE NAME Chatham

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 55101410 41499181010

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a rectangular lot approximately 200' X 400'
in size running east from Park Avenue to the adjacent street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas W. Kelly (Revised by T. Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation) 609-292-2028

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Edward E. Cole

2/1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

628 Higgins Avenue

(201) 528-5808

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Brielle

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy John Wilson
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

10-12-78

TITLE Deputy Commissioner
N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 12-12-78

Charles A. Beebe
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: John A. Beebe
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Dec 11, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Scotch Plains School Number One

Scotch Plains

Union County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

Bibliography

ITEM NUMBER

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Marsh, Reignette. Scotch Plains. New Brunswick, 1936 (p.23).

Letter from Richard Guy Wilson, Prof. of Arch. History, University of Virginia,
3/28/1978.