

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name George A. Strong Residence

other names/site number The Wardlaw School, duCret School of Art

## 2. Location

street & number 1030 Central Avenue

city or town City of Plainfield

state New Jersey code NJ county Union code 039 zip code 07060

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

not for publication

vicinity

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

RH Booy — Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources 6/24/12  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

8/28/12  
Date of Action

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## 5. Classification

### 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 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

EDUCATION/school

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Georgian Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick/Sandstone/Concrete

walls: Brick/ Concrete/Stucco

roof: Asphalt Shingle/Synthetic

other:

## Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheet.

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**Summary Paragraph**

The George A. Strong Residence is an expansive Colonial Revival style house that was constructed in 1896 for lawyer George Strong and his family (Photograph 0001). Today, the residence is part of the duCret School of Art complex, a conglomeration of the Strong Residence, four early-to-mid-twentieth-century school building additions, and a former carriage house that was incorporated into the additions. The original two-and-one-half-story house (Photograph 0002) is composed of a main rectangular section with an L-shaped servants' wing located to the northwest of the main section. The earliest school addition is a gymnasium (Photograph 0013), which was constructed in 1933 for use by the Wardlaw School, a private school that purchased the property in that year. This addition extends from the main house west of the servants' wing along the west side of the house. The second addition, a library, was constructed in 1947 in the location of an original open porch at the southeast corner of the house. Although constructed in two phases, the third and fourth additions appear as one element. These additions (Photograph 0012) were constructed in 1960s in the International Style and project west from the main house, and along the south and west walls of both the gymnasium and the carriage house. Although the additions have more than tripled the size of the structure, they remain deferential to the main house. The carriage house (Photograph 0014), set to the northwest of the main house, was constructed at the same time as the main house, but was damaged by a fire in 1947 and was significantly altered at its exterior and interior when it was incorporated into the additions. Today the carriage house houses classrooms and photography studios. In 1977, the duCret School of Art purchased the property, and today continues to utilize the main house, carriage house and additions as school offices, studios and educational space.

The George A. Strong Residence was pictured on the cover of *Scientific American Building Monthly* in 1903 and its exterior and interior were described in detail on the pages of the magazine. The description provides an overview of the exterior detailing of the building but goes into greater detail about the interior, particularly the first floor level. Some of the features highlighted in the description include the relationship of the reception hall at the first floor with the main stair and adjoining rooms, the detailing of the various fireplaces located throughout the first and second floors, the kitchen and bathroom amenities, and that each bedroom on the second floor has a fireplace and lavatory.

**Site**

The Strong Residence is located at 1030 Central Avenue in the City of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. The City of Plainfield is located in north-central New Jersey in Union County. Plainfield, lying within the heart of the most densely populated region of New Jersey, is a large city of about 50,000 residents living within six square miles. The city is composed of a dense urban center with tightly knit residential sections including several New Jersey and National Register historic districts featuring late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century residences. These neighborhoods demonstrate the city's expansion in the late-nineteenth century due to advances in railroad transportation and the Industrial Revolution. The Strong Residence is located on Central Avenue, a residential street in the southwest corner of the city. It is situated amongst a mix of residential buildings dating from the late-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

The Strong Residence faces east and is set parallel with Central Avenue. Despite the extensive additions, the main building is the most prominent architectural element from the street continuing to complement the predominately residential neighborhood. The main house is set back approximately 150 feet from the road. Centered along the street front, the house is surrounded by an expansive grassy lawn dotted with mature trees. Shrubbery lines the base of the building along the front porch. A curved paved drive crosses in front of the house and connects to a paved parking lot on its north side. The parking lot begins at a porte cochere on the north side of the house and occupies much of the north and west sides of the site.

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**Exterior**

***George A. Strong Residence***

The Strong Residence consists of the rectangular main section and an L-shaped projection along the west side that forms the servants' wing. The long leg of the "L" projects to the west of the main section and is set back slightly from the north wall. The short leg is set adjacent to the west side of the main section and serves as the transition between the main section and servants' wing. The main section is five bays wide (three wide bays in the center and two narrow bays on either end) and two bays deep. The long leg of the "L" is three bays deep and two bays wide, and the short leg is almost square, being two and one-half bays wide by two bays deep. The primary elevations (east, north and south) are formally designed. The southwest crook created by the L-shaped section is less formal in its detailing and configuration. Much of the west side of the house is covered by the gymnasium and school additions.

The main building is two-and-one-half stories tall with a full basement (Photograph 0006). Dormers at the roofline at both the main section and servants' wing make the third floor habitable. The basement is raised several feet above grade and is clad with rock-faced sandstone. A projecting brick band course tops the foundation. The body of the building is yellow brick masonry laid in common bond with butter joints. The roofline is finished with a wood entablature. The treatment of the window and door surrounds varies. The hip roofs of the main section and servants' wing originally were wood shingle and copper, respectively, and currently are finished with asphalt shingles and membrane roofing; these modern roofing materials began to be used on the building in the 1960s. The roofs are adorned with flared eaves, gable dormers and tall brick chimneys. The entablature of the servants' wing is set slightly lower and is less decorative than that of the main section.

Prominent features of the front (east) façade are two, full-height, shallow masonry bow projections set evenly and symmetrically apart from one another (Photograph 0007), and a wide covered porch that spans between the bow projections across approximately one third of the east elevation. At the north elevation, a porte cochere projects to the north and serves as a side entrance. There are also two semi-hexagonal-bay window projections: a one-story semi-hexagonal-bay window projection is located in the west bay of the north elevation, and a two-story semi-hexagonal-bay window projection is located in the west bay of the south elevation.

The windows are typically wood-hung sash set in a wood frame, and vary in size and shape on the first floor, at the dormers and at each elevation in general. The masonry openings are typically finished with stone lug sills. Each basement window has a stone jack arched opening engaged with the brick belt course. The heads of the first floor masonry openings are finished with soldier brick arches. The roof entablature serves as the head of the second floor masonry opening. Irregularly-shaped masonry openings, such as the oval windows, have all-encompassing soldier brick surrounds. The basement windows are typically three-light awning sashes. The most consistently sized windows are those on the second floor, which tend to be either twelve-over-one or nine-over-one wood-hung sashes; however the windows' configuration vary at all floor levels including a central Palladian window assembly at the second floor on the east elevation.

**Roofs**

The main section has a hip roof with flared eaves and a flat top. The flat area served as a widow's walk and was originally enclosed by a wooden balustrade similar in detail to the front porch balustrade; this feature was removed in the 1970s due to it being in poor condition. The servants' wing roof also has a flared hip (ridge running east / west) that connects with the west slope of the main section's roof. The roof is clipped at its west end. All of the sloped sections of both roof sections are clad with asphalt shingles. The flat sections of roofing are clad with membrane roofing. This is typical throughout the main building.



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The main roof entablature includes a stepped architrave, a frieze and a cornice. The cornice has a dentil course below the projecting fascia with scrolled modillions within the soffit. The entablature at the servants' wing has a fascia and plain soffit with a large bed mould below it. Because this roof is lower, the bed mould is level with the architrave of the main roof. There are built-in gutters at the perimeter of most of the roofs. The original copper leaders were replaced in the 1970s with rectangular aluminum leaders; however, the ornamental ends of the copper leader straps remain attached to the masonry.

Three tall brick chimneys penetrate the roof of the main section and one penetrates the servants' wing roof. The chimneys vary in overall width and depth but share typical corbelled detailing at their tops and are topped by thin cap stones. Two chimneys are located at the far north and south ends of the main roof, one is located in the southwest corner of the main roof and the fourth chimney is located in the northwest corner of the servants' wing roof.

The main section roof has three small gable dormers evenly spaced and centered on the east elevation, and one large dormer is centered on the north and south elevations. The north and south dormers are twice the width of the east dormers. The gable ends are detailed with moulded cornices that return and truncate at the surround of the centered opening. All dormers have a single multiple-pane wood sash with half-round arched heads except the south dormer, which has a door to serve the fire escape. The window surrounds are moulded with a wood key at the head of the opening. The gable ends of the smaller dormers are clad wood shingles. The gable ends of the larger dormers are clad with asphalt shingles. The sidewalls of all the dormers are finished with asphalt shingles.

At the west side of the main section roof, there is a typical small gable dormer to the south and a larger shed dormer set directly next to it to the north. The window in the small gable dormer has a flat arched head instead of the half-round arch found on the east dormers. The shed dormer has four six-pane casement windows separated by wide mullions centered on its long west side. This dormer turns when it meets the servants' wing roof and continues until just before reaching the school building addition. This section of dormer has a single six-pane casement. The exposed walls of the dormer are clad with asphalt shingles.

The servants' wing roof has single gable dormers on its north and west slopes. The dormer on the north side is a large dormer with paired multiple-pane wood-hung sashes set in flat arched heads and separated by a wide wood mullion. The west dormer is smaller than the north and has a single multiple-pane wood-hung sash. Both dormers are detailed similarly to the dormers at the main section's roof.

The roof of the front entry porch is essentially flat with a slight pitch towards the edges where the fascia forms a gutter. Leaders extend down to grade at each corner. The entablature mimics that of the main roof, however, it lacks the brackets and the fascia itself is narrower. The porch lintels are ornamented at the stepped architrave and the frieze. The roof over the one-story semi-hexagonal-bay projection is a hip roof clad with asphalt shingles. The roofs over the two-story semi-hexagonal-bay projection and the bow projections align with the main roof, but are flatter and clad with membrane roofing.

#### Elevations

*East:* The east (front) façade is symmetrical (Photograph 0001). It is dominated by the two masonry bow projections that occupy the second and fourth bays (beginning from the east), and by the porch spanning the center of the elevation and covering approximately one third of each bow projection. The main entry is centered on the elevation and within the porch, and a Palladian-influenced window assembly is set above it. The first and fifth bays are narrower than the other bays. Three evenly spaced gable dormers punctuate the main hip roof, and a brick masonry

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chimney is set at each end of the roof. A wooden balustrade, similar to the porch balustrade, once ran the perimeter of the flat section of the hip roof, but this was removed in the 1960s due to its poor condition.

This east elevation exhibits masonry detailing not found elsewhere on the building. In addition to the brick band course at the foundation, five additional band courses extend across the elevation from the outer edge of each bow projection. Four are evenly spaced at the first floor level beginning at the level of the window sills. The fifth band course is level with the second floor window sills.

The porch is composed of a centered covered area and two flanking areas of floor that are uncovered. The covered porch is deeper than the uncovered areas and extends one third of the elevation. The uncovered floor areas extend to the outer edge of each bow projection. There are three sets of steps: one each at the north and south open ends (Photograph 0008) and one centered on the east side of the porch. Each set of steps is wood with stone sidewalls, and each has modern wood handrails. The porch is supported by a stone base, which includes two masonry openings, one centered below each uncovered section. Six fluted Ionic columns support the porch roof: one on either side of the centered steps, one at each outer corner, and one at each inner corner adjacent to the uncovered area. The latter are directly behind those at the outer corner forming paired columns. A balustrade lines the outer edge of the porch. Heavy moulded panel newel posts mark each outer corner of the uncovered porch where the steps begin. The balustrade is composed of a moulded top and bottom rails with evenly spaced carved wood baluster set between the rails. The porch floor is finished with painted narrow tongue-and-groove wood boards. A skirt board runs the perimeter of the porch. The ceiling is finished with clear-finished narrow beaded boards.

*North:* The north elevation (Photograph 0011) consists of the main section and the servants' wing, which is set back approximately four feet behind the main section. The main section is two bays wide and is typical in its detailing to the east elevation. At this elevation, there is a one-story semi-hexagonal-bay window projection in the west bay of the main section (Photograph 0009). The stone foundation and typical brick cladding are set below the window sill, but the remainder of the bay projection is finished with wood. Its roof is a hip clad with asphalt shingles, and its entablature mimics the main roof in its detailing but at a smaller scale. A large gable dormer is set center over the main section.

The adjoining servants' wing to the west is three bays deep. The detailing at its masonry, and window and door openings is typical of the rest of the elevation. The pattern of the windows is typically two windows per bay at the first and second floor levels but the size and configuration of the windows vary slightly. The first floor windows are typically two-over-two wood-hung sash set in segmental arched masonry openings. The second floor windows are multiple-pane upper sashes over one-light lower sashes with the number of panes of the upper sashes depending on the size of the opening. Similar to the front elevation, the heads of the window are set at the level of the entablature. The main entrance along this elevation is set under a porte cochere. The door assembly is composed of a single leaf with a half-round arched surround with a transom and two flanking one-over-one wood-hung windows with a shallow recess above the windows. The whole assembly is set within an elliptical arched masonry opening. The hip roof is set lower than the main roof and the entablature is simpler in its detailing. There is a single large dormer set off-center to the east.

The porte cochere (Photographs 0009 and 0010), which is set within the eastern-most bay of the servants' wing, dominates the overall elevation of the servants' wing. The porte cochere projects approximately nineteen feet from the north wall and is irregular in shape at its south end, but is mainly rectangular in plan as it projects to the north. It is open on three sides and covered by a hip roof with a simple wood entablature with a projecting cornice and deep soffit. A freestanding masonry wall of yellow brick and rock-faced stone detailing and two pairs of Doric columns

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support the north end of the roof structure. Two additional masonry walls of similar detailing are set perpendicular to the north wall of the servants' wing and then form a right angle so they are set parallel to the north wall of the servants' wing and the corresponding outer support wall of the porte cochere. The parallel sections of wall support two pairs of Doric columns, which in turn support the south end of the porte cochere's roof. These masonry walls enclose a wood frame porch, which provides access to the entrance door set under the porte cochere. Wood steps are set between the masonry walls. The porch floor is finished with narrow tongue-and-groove boards. The ceiling, shaped in a reverse hip with a flat center, is clad with clear-finished beaded boards.

To the west of the porte cochere is a low wood frame structure set just below the first floor window sills. This structure, which replaced an earlier structure, was probably first installed in the 1950s and modified a number of times since then, is clad with vertical wood boards, has a flat roof with a center peak and a centrally located door, and serves as a covered entrance to the basement.

*West:* Most of the west elevation is covered by the gymnasium to the north and the school building to the south with only small sections visible at the second and third floor levels (Photograph 0005). The detailing of the masonry and at the roofline found at the east elevation has been retained at the visible portions of the west elevation. However, at the second floor level an enclosed sleeping porch dominates much of the visible portions of the elevation. The porch, which has a shed roof, is enclosed on its west side by multiple-pane casement windows with multiple-pane transoms so there is little ornament or detailing. Above this porch is a brick chimney. At the third floor level, there is a single typical small dormer set adjacent to a larger shed dormer that occupies the center third of the roof. This dormer turns when it meets the south side of the servants' wing.

*South:* The south side of the building is fully exposed at the main section and almost fully covered by later additions at the servants' wing (Photographs 0003 and 0004). The main section and servants' wing are more distinct from one another compared to the north side of the building because the servants' wing is set back significantly and the short leg of the "L" of the wing is only two stories in height.

The main section, like the north side, is two bays wide with a typical roofline and masonry detailing. The west bay has a two-story semi-hexagonal-bay window projection, which is masonry from the foundation to the entablature and is contiguous with the main building. The fenestration at the bay projection consists of large central windows at both floor levels, flanked by narrower windows in the side angles of the bay. The windows at the first floor have stained glass transoms. The fenestration pattern at the main section is irregular at the eastern-most bay. There are two large half-round openings at the first floor with multiple-pane transoms set in a decorative pattern. Above the eastern-most window at the second floor is a larger multiple-pane wood-hung sash, and above the western-most window are two small paired half-round, multiple-paned wood-hung sashes. A metal fire escape, installed in the 1970s, crisscrosses the east bay until it meets the third floor dormer.

The first floor level of the short leg of the "L" of the servants' wing is covered by the library, which was constructed in 1947, and the second floor level consists of the south end wall of the sleeping porch. Similar to the west side of the sleeping porch, the walls are multiple-pane wood casements with a narrow multiple-pane transom. A Doric column supports the southwest corner of the shed roof. The long leg of the "L" is covered in its entirety from the basement to second floor level by additions, with only the shed dormer visible at the third floor level.



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***Library***

The Library is a long rectangular addition that extends from the Strong Residence to the south at its west corner. It is six bays deep by three bays wide, with its northern-most bay being engaged with the Strong Residence. Its south wall is semi-hexagonal, creating a bay projection. The walls are masonry finished with smooth stucco. The roof is hipped with its ridge running north/south. The roof is detailed with a plain wood fascia, a plain wood soffit, and a narrow frieze board with a small bed mould above the windows. A series of windows are set regularly spaced across the east and west elevations and centered in each of the semi-hexagonal-bay walls. The windows are multiple-light steel sashes. The south-facing windows have operable awnings in the center. The masonry openings are not ornamented but each have a projecting stone lug sill. There is one door centered on the east wall. A set of brick steps with a landing rise up to this door. The interior is composed of a single open space that connects with both the Strong Residence to the east and the School Building to the west.

**The Gymnasium**

The Gymnasium is a rectangular, two-story building with its east and west elevations being the narrow ends. It is four bays long and two wide, and is centered on the west side of the Servant's Wing of the Strong Residence. The north elevation faces the parking area; all but the top of the walls of the west and south elevations have been enclosed by construction of the School Building. A long, narrow one-story section projects from the building. It occupies the lower portion of the middle two bays on the north elevation.

The Gymnasium has a hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles except at the one-story projection; this area has a flat roof finished with membrane roofing. The exterior walls are finished with stucco and pilasters are located at each corner and at each bay. A pair of egress doors is located in the east corner of the north elevation. There are four steel windows high in the clerestory level of the main wall which span almost fully from pilaster to pilaster and three evenly-spaced steel windows set high in the wall of the projection. The clerestory windows are divided into three sections by mullions; each section has twenty-lights including a six-light operable awning in the center. The projection's windows are divided into two sections with twenty-lights each including a six-light operable awning in the center. The interior is a single large space with exposed roof structure with two alcoves created by the north and south projection; the south projection is incorporated into the structure of the School Building.

**School Building**

The School Building is sprawling, forms the southwest corner of the building complex, and connects all building sections. In order to work with the original building and earlier additions, the building plan is irregular, and winds and jogs to fit into voids and allow natural light into the original structure. The School Building extends west from the Library and the Strong Residence, enveloping the west and south walls of the Gymnasium to ultimately enclose much of the Carriage House. It is composed of a circulation-service area including a three-story stair tower to the east, the main two-story classroom block in the center, and a one-and-one-half story auditorium at the west end with smaller one-story circulation-service area to its north.

The School Building is constructed of concrete masonry units (concrete block) with a flat wood fascia. The roofs are typically flat with no overhang and are clad with membrane roofing. The windows are aluminum in combinations of awnings and fixed sash. Typically, the windows are organized in patterns of vertical strips comprised of stacked



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horizontal lights separated by mullions except at the west wall of the Auditorium which has a series of rectangular casement windows. Any ornamentation on the building is achieved through the voids created by the plan configuration.

The exterior of the eastern circulation-service area is irregular. It is comprised of a stair tower, restrooms, storage rooms and halls and the exterior is composed of a series of rectangular blocks representative of the plan. The stair tower is three-stories high while the remaining service area is two-stories and one-story where directly adjacent to the Residence and Library. The stair tower walls are finished with stucco and the remaining walls are exposed concrete block, typical of the rest of the building. Its windows are typical but are not set in a regular pattern; they are placed where required to attain the best natural light.

The main classroom block is two-bays wide, three-bays long and two-stories high. A fourth bay serves as a visual transition between the classroom block and the circulation-service area to its east. This bay is set significantly behind (north of) both the main classroom block and the circulation/service area creating a small courtyard. Only the east and south elevations of the classroom block are exposed. The east elevation, which faces the courtyard, is an unadorned concrete block wall. The south elevation is the most detailed of the School Building. It is delineated into four distinct two-story bays (three in the main block and one set back at the courtyard). Each bay is separated by a concrete block pier a single block wide. The first floor sashes are set back several feet creating a deep void between each pier. The windows span from pier to pier and are divided into five vertical strips by mullions. They consist of a narrow horizontal sash below larger upper sash. The windows are identical on the first and second floors except the first floor windows are set between narrow strips of concrete block wall above and below the sash, while the second floor mullions extend from floor to ceiling. Rather than concrete block, opaque glazing panels are set above and below the sash within the mullions.

The auditorium, at the west end of the classroom block, is centered in plan on the main hall of the classroom block. It extends further to the south by several feet and its roof is set several feet lower. It is two-bays wide and four-bays long. Each bay is divided by exposed vertical steel "I" beams. Only the northern three bays of the west elevation have fenestration. There are two sets of steel double doors at either end of these bays and ten small casement windows evenly spaced between the doors. The auditorium is one large room with a stage and backstage spaces at the south end of the room.

The one-story service area to the north of the auditorium connects the auditorium with the Carriage House and the Gymnasium. It contains a restroom, a snack room, storage rooms and a hallway. In plan, this section is 'U' shaped extending the length of the east and west sides of the Carriage House. The east el also extends across a portion of the north elevation of the Gymnasium. Except for the east el, this section is similar to the rest of the School Building; it is constructed of concrete block and has no additional ornament. It has a flat roof clad with membrane roofing. There is one typical aluminum window at the south end of the west elevation and a series of four steel windows, similar to the Gymnasium windows, high in the wall and evenly spaced along the remainder of the west elevation. An additional low wood frame storage structure has been constructed below these windows to the west. A vehicular door is centered in the north elevation of the west el.

The east end of this section, a long hallway, was originally an outdoor covered walkway that was constructed as part of the classroom building. It was enclosed at the end of the twentieth century. Currently, it is clad in vertical wood siding and has a flat roof with a one-foot overhang. There is a door in the west corner of the north elevation and a row of narrow horizontal vinyl windows (a mix of fixed and sliding) above the door and across the east elevation at clerestory level. At the north end of the Carriage House, there is a single wood door on the north elevation. It

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appears that the original configuration included a concrete walk covered by the current roof which was supported by unadorned steel pipe columns; most of the columns are still visible within the wood frame structure.

**Carriage House**

The Carriage House is a two-story rectangular building enclosed by the one-story northwestern end of the School Building on three sides. The interior of the Carriage House has a series of classrooms at the first floor level, and a central stair leading to studios on the second floor.

The Carriage House is of wood-frame construction. The only exposed elevation at the first floor level, the north elevation, is finished with rough cast stucco, and all four second floor elevations are a mix of wood shingles, and other wood siding materials. The gable roof is finished with asphalt shingles; its ridge runs north/south. An internal yellow brick chimney rises high above the ridge though the western slope of the roof. The Carriage House has a variety of hung windows on the second floor including wood and vinyl replacement sash. Several of the windows have been covered with plywood and others have been infilled with framing and shingles. At the first floor, steel windows, similar to the gymnasium windows are open between the Carriage House and the east hallway of the School Building.

**Interior****Basement*****George A. Strong Residence***

The basement of the Strong Residence (Photograph 0024) is utilitarian in its function and its finishes. The basement has been divided into many spaces of varying sizes as required for the schools' uses. It was originally several large spaces divided by wide brick arched openings. These spaces correspond with the first floor layout above, with the east section of the center hall, sitting room and front parlor (and ancillary spaces) being one large space to the east, and the west section of the center hall, office and study corresponding to a separate room to the west. The basement of the servants' wing was more subdivided than the main section and, although most of the present dividing walls are modern, was similar in plan as laid out today. The interior load-bearing walls are brick and interior partitions are finished with gypsum wallboard or plaster. The floors are concrete and the ceilings are typically finished with gypsum wallboard.

***School Building***

The basement of the Wardlaw School Building is a small section of the overall building and is located under the north end of the Auditorium Building. It is composed of two large spaces, a storage room and a mechanical room. A hall connects the two spaces at the north end. The stair to the first floor is located at the northeast corner off the hall.

**First Floor*****George A. Strong Residence***

The interior layout of all three floor levels of the George A. Strong Residence is dictated primarily by the first floor layout. At the first floor, a center hall runs east/west the full depth of the main section with rooms to the north and south on either side of the center hall. The center hall contains the primary stair in its northwest corner. Adjacent to the stair to the south is access to the servants' wing, which is L-shaped and integral with the main section. The short

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side of the "L" runs north/south and connects with the long side where it continues to the west. The north/south section primarily acts as circulation and the west section houses the former kitchen at the first floor. Although the overall layout changes from floor to floor, the location of the center hall and stair, and the juxtaposition of the main section with the servants' wing tends to dictate the layout at the upper floors.

There are five primary spaces at the first floor within the main section and three spaces within the servants' wing. Originally serving as a private residence, the five primary spaces in the main section include the center hall, a sitting room, front parlor, dining room and study. The three rooms in the servants' wing include a small library, circulation including a servants' stair (now removed, and date of change unknown), and the kitchen with a supporting butler's pantry set to the west of the dining room. The original uses are still evident in most of the first floor spaces as seen in the architectural finishes including wainscot, plaster walls and ceilings, flooring and window and door surrounds, as well as in the features, such as the fireplaces, pocket doors, bay and bow window projections, and built-in cabinetry and bookshelves. As a result, the interior of the first floor, particularly at the main section, retains a high degree of architectural integrity in its finishes and features.

The architectural detailing at the windows and doors is generally uniform with some variation. As such, the door and window surrounds at the first floor are moulded wood with flat arched heads finished with a crown mould, unless otherwise noted. The doors at the main spaces are typically wood with multiple panels. The larger openings between the center hall and side rooms typically lack doors. Most of the rooms on the first floor have wood wainscot but the height and panel configuration varies from room to room. The wood base, where present, is typically tall with a moulded top edge. Almost every room within the main section has a fireplace.

*Center Hall*

The center hall spans the full length (east/west) of the main section and provides the primary access to each room in the main section as well as access to the second floor and servants' wing. The walls of the center hall and stair are lined with tall paneled mahogany wainscot that continues up the stairwell to the second floor level. The plaster ceiling is accented with a series of dropped mahogany beams that join the moulded wood cornice, which runs the perimeter of the space. The mouldings at the door openings are accented with delicate dentil mould and all of the woodwork remains clear finished. The flooring is wood finished with carpet.

The primary feature of the center hall is the main stair (Photograph 0016) located in the northwest corner. The stair is composed of wood risers and treads, which are covered with carpet. Although the whole stair is wide, the bottom three treads widen and have a curved edge at the south corner. The moulded handrail follows the stairwell from the northwest corner of the second floor the whole way along the stairs, interrupted only by a post at each landing. At the rounded base tread, the railing forms a spiral cluster of balusters forming a newel. The balusters are delicately moulded and set close together, four per tread. The corner posts are square with reeded surfaces. Their bases are dropped below the string mould. The entire stairwell is open at the second floor.

Centered on the east wall is the main entry (Photograph 0015). The surround is floor to ceiling and occupies most of this wall. There are two evenly spaced openings on both the north and south walls leading to the main rooms. Each opening is wide and trimmed with moulded mahogany. Three of the openings have flat tops finished with a crown mould. The opening to the sitting room has matching trim but with a rounded arch top. The opening leading to the servants' wing is located under the stairs in the southwest corner. Its head height is lower than the other openings and has an elliptical arched head. A small closet is located in the southwest corner along the south wall.



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*Sitting Room*

The sitting room occupies the northeast corner of the main section. Its primary features are a fireplace on the west wall and a bow window opposite it on the east wall (Photograph 0019), both of which are set off-center to the south.

They are located at the south end of the room. At the north end, the east and north walls are lined with windows of varying sizes. A door set adjacent to the fireplace on the west wall provides access to the office (former dining room).

There is a small closet on the north side of the chimney breast.

The plaster walls are finished with a low paneled wainscot with a wood base and chair rail matching that in the center hall. At the plaster ceiling, there is a cornice, frieze and picture rail. The floor is carpeted, presumably over strip wood. The flat head windows are topped with a crown mould. The center window in the bow projection has a half-round arched head, which is detailed with moulded trim and scrolled wood keystone. The door to the hall, which has an elliptical arched head, is similarly detailed to this window.

The fireplace surround and hearth are constructed of thick ceramic tile with a miniscule grout joint. The firebox is lined with roman brick and butter joints. A rope ornament metal surround around the firebox opening secures the tile in place. The whole assembly is finished with a wood mantle with ornament matching the other woodwork within the room.

*Office (former Dining Room)*

The office occupies the northwest corner of the main section. A large semi-hexagonal-bay window alcove is centered on the north wall. A fireplace occupies the southeast corner and a built-in cabinet occupies the southwest corner; both elements create angled walls. A door leading to the sitting room and a door leading to the closet, located opposite each other, are set slightly off center on the east and west walls, respectively.

The plaster walls are finished with tall paneled wainscot with a moulded projecting top rail with dentil moulding set below it. Bookshelves line the east wall. The wall to ceiling transition is finished with a cornice composed of a small crown mould, a frieze and a picture mould. In the 1970s, the ceiling was finished with acoustical tile installed over the original plaster. The floor is carpet over strip wood. The door and window surrounds are detailed with a dentil moulding set below the crown moulding.

The fireplace has a scagliola surround, and small tiles with a rough finish serve as the hearth. The firebox is lined with roman bricks with butter joints. A narrow brass surround lines the front edge of the firebox and appears to hold the scagliola in place. The wood surround rises slightly above the chair rail. The mantle shelf, which is supported by four scrolls, is level with the chair rail and the detailing matches. Applied festoon moulding in low relief ornaments the area between the mantle and the firebox opening.

*Front Parlor*

The front parlor, which also serves as an office, occupies the southeast corner of the main section. A bow projection similar to that in the sitting room is centered on the east wall and a wide pocket door opening into the study is centered on the west wall. A corner fireplace occupies the southwest corner. An elliptical arch-topped opening in-filled with two sidelights and a glass door is centered on the remainder of the south wall.

The floor is carpet over strip wood, the ceiling is acoustical tile and the walls are plaster, but are without wainscot. The moulding throughout the room, including the base, door and window surrounds and cornice, is similar to that found in adjacent rooms, but without the dentil mould.



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The fireplace has a scagliola surround and a glazed brick hearth. The firebox is lined with roman bricks with butter joints. A narrow brass surround lines the front edge of the firebox and appears to hold the scagliola in place. The mantle shelf, which is supported by eight evenly spaced scrolls detailed with floral ornament, is set high and is heavily detailed with delicate carving. Applied festoon moulding in low relief ornaments the area between the mantle and the firebox opening.

*Sunroom*

The sunroom, which is an extension of the front parlor, occupies the southeast corner of the main section and is divided into two sections front to back. A wide opening that is finished with moulded wood trim separates these two spaces. The floor is wood strip, the ceiling is plaster with moulded cornice, and the walls are plaster with typical wood base.

*Study*

The study (Photograph 0017) occupies the southwest corner of the main section. A large semi-hexagonal-bay window alcove is centered on the north wall. A fireplace on the west wall is set off-center to the north. A pair of pocket doors leading to the front parlor is located opposite the fireplace. A pair of doors is set adjacent to the fireplace to the south and leads to the library. Built-in bookcases occupy the northeast and northwest corners. The floor in this space is carpet over wood, the ceiling is acoustical tile over plaster and the walls are plaster with a typical wood base. The ceiling cornice is detailed similarly to the other spaces but is wood, which is similar to the center hall.

The built-in bookshelves are approximately five feet tall and topped with a crown mould similar to that over the door openings. The shelves are protected by glass doors. The fireplace (Photograph 0018) is set within a floor-to-ceiling wood surround. The firebox, within wood moulding, is centered within the surround and is flanked by fluted pilasters, paneled closet doors and two outer fluted pilasters. A wood mantle shelf supported by three brackets, and an overmantel with a mirror span between the inner pilasters above the firebox. An entablature, including an architrave, frieze and cornice, spans between the outer pilasters. The fireplace surround is finished with a subway-type ceramic tile with a miniscule grout joint. The firebox is lined with roman brick and butter joints.

*Hall 1*

Hall 1 runs north/south to the west end of the main section and is part of the servants' wing. Its north side opens to the porte cochere and its south side to the former library (finance office). Two small closets are located along the east wall and a small vestibule opens to the center hall between these closets and the former library. The stair to the additions is accessed along its west wall at the south end, and access to the former kitchen (art store) is at the north end of the west wall. There is evidence in the wall and ceiling finishes that a stair was located along the west wall to the south of the kitchen access. The date of this change is unknown. The floor in this space is vinyl tile, the ceiling is plaster and gypsum wallboard with a plaster cornice, and the walls are plasterboard with a wood base.

*Art Store (former Kitchen)*

The art store occupies the northwest corner of the servants' wing. It is a rectangular space with two smaller rooms occupying the length of the west wall that currently serves as closets. The art room was once the kitchen and the remnants of the fireplace for the stove/oven remain along the west wall. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is finished with gypsum wallboard and the walls are finished with plasterboard except at the fireplace, which is glazed tile.

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*Finance Room (former Library)*

The finance room is an approximately square space that occupies the southwest corner of the main building and once served as a small library. The room is broken into two parts: the east and west ends. The ceiling heights between the two spaces, the west being much taller than the east, and the type of finishes in each distinguish one space from the other even though they are open to one another. The west space is unadorned and has been modified at its west wall to accommodate changes in the fenestration needed to the school building addition. The wall finishes are plaster and the ceiling finishes are gypsum wallboard. The east space is more elaborately adorned and its focal point is a fireplace centered on its east wall. There is built-in cabinetry on either side of the fireplace. The ceiling is plaster with dropped wood beams running east/west and the walls are finished with a wood wainscot at their lower half with plaster above. The flooring in both spaces is carpet.

**Library**

The library was added during the Wardlaw School era and is essentially an extension of an original exterior porch. It is located adjacent to the finance room and the study in the southwest corner of the Main Building. It is also accessible by a hall in the School Building to the west. It is a long rectangular space with a three-sided bay projection at its south end. Steel windows line the east and west walls and are centered in each of the bay walls. The floor is carpeted and the walls and ceiling are plaster.

**Gymnasium**

*Fine Arts Studio*

The Fine Arts Studio is the only room making up the Gymnasium. It is a large rectangular space with its main axis running east/west. It is a double-height space with metal trusses exposed for the roof framing. Windows line the north and south walls at the clerestory level. The south windows have been enclosed by the addition of the School Building. Narrow alcoves are centered along the north and south walls. The floor level of the north alcove is set above the main floor level and windows line its north wall. The alcove at the south side has a small closet constructed at its west end. There is a closet to the east of the south alcove that is actually part of the School Building. There are three entrances to the space: at the south end of the east wall into the School Building; one to the exterior at the east end of the north wall; and one at the far west end of the north wall. The fine arts studio has narrow wood strip flooring typical of a gymnasium. The lower walls are brick and upper are concrete block except the east wall at main building, which is the former exterior wall of the house and is painted brick with concrete block infill at the former openings. The ceiling is particle board with wood battens and exposed structural steel.

**School Building**

The School Building is a long meandering building that, as previously described, is composed of four primary spaces: the eastern circulation-service area, the main classroom block, the auditorium and the western circulation-service area located north of the auditorium. Typically throughout the School Building, the floors are resilient tile, the walls are painted concrete block and the ceilings are exposed concrete.

Eastern Circulation/ Service Area

This area includes the main stair hall at its northeast end; a hallway to the south and west of the stair hall, two restrooms and several closets.

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*Stair Hall 1*

Stair Hall 1 is located west of Hall 1 and south of the Art Store in the George A. Strong Residence and serves as a connection between the George A. Strong Residence, the Gymnasium, and the School Building, which are set a half story lower than the Residence. The space rises three stories to provide access to all four levels of the Residence as well as both levels of the School Building.

The Stair Hall is a rectangular space that is fully occupied by a prefabricated metal scissor-type stair and its associated landings. The stair treads are concrete while the risers are metal. Railings are simple metal pipe rails with square metal balusters welded to the metal stringer. The ceiling at the third floor level is exposed concrete. There are doors at each landing except the intermediate landing between the second and third floor. One large tripartite window at the top level and a single window at the second floor level light the stairwell from the south.

*Hall 2*

Hall 2 is located to the west of the Residence and south of Stair Hall 1. It is 'U' shaped and envelopes the restrooms and a janitor's closet. Its north leg connects to Stair Hall 1 and serves as an alcove for the restrooms, the south leg connects to the Library via a concrete stair and has an exterior door, and the west section joins Hall 3 in the classroom block. The floor, ceiling and wall materials are typical of the School Building.

Classroom Block

The classroom block consists of Hall 3, a corridor that spans east/west the length of the block from the circulation-service area to the Auditorium, three classrooms along the corridor's south wall, and a stair hall and a closet along its north.

*Hall 3*

Hall 3 is a long narrow corridor that connects Hall 2 with the Auditorium at the far west end of the School Building. The floor, wall and ceiling finishes are continuous with Hall 2. The east end of the Hall is dominated by a five-bay aluminum window in the south wall identical to the classroom windows. It spans the full width from the juncture of with Hall 2 to the classroom.

*Stair 2*

Stair 2 is a rectangular space dominated by a pre-fabricated metal scissor-type stair and its associated landings. The stair rises to the second floor of the School Building. The finishes are similar to that found at the first floor level of the School Building. There is a small closet, set under the upper leg of the stair along the north wall. This stair matches that in Stair Hall 1. The treads are concrete while the risers are metal. Railings are simple metal pipe rails with square metal balusters welded to the metal stringer.

*Classrooms*

The three identical classrooms are located in a row along the south side of Hall 3. Each is identical except for Classroom 3 which has one minor difference. Each classroom is rectangular with the entrance is in the northeast corner. Windows occupy the entire south wall. A five-bay aluminum store front window unit set on a concrete block wall span the width of the south wall. The unit is a combination of awning windows below a larger unit above. The floors, walls, and ceilings are typical of the School Building. The only variation between the classrooms is that Classroom 3 has a door in the southwest corner which provides egress from the stage area of the Auditorium.



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*Auditorium*

The Auditorium is a large double-height space divided into two sections, the larger open space to the north and a stage to the south. The stage is raised a couple of feet above the floor of the auditorium. Access to the backstage area is via small corridors containing wooden steps on both the north and south sides of the stage. There are two exterior doors in the far ends of the Auditorium's west wall. Ten casement windows are evenly spaced between these two doors. Interior access to the room is in the northeast corner and centered in the east wall connecting to Hall 3. The main floor is resilient tile and the stage floor is wood strips. The walls are concrete block with poured concrete pilasters. The ceiling has exposed steel roof construction with a mixture of exposed concrete plank sheathing and areas where the planks have been replaced with metal corrugated roof deck.

West Circulation - Service Area

*Kitchen*

The Kitchen is a rectangular space located to the north of the Auditorium. A large window similar to the classroom windows is centered in the west wall. A small restroom is set within in the northeast corner and a small closet in the southeast corner. The south wall has a former pass-thru to the auditorium and a counter space. There is other cabinetry and equipment in the space. The floor is resilient tile, the walls are concrete block and the ceiling is gypsum board. In the northwest corner there is a door to the west storage area. This area abuts the west wall of the Carriage House, spans the length of it, and is finished similar to the Kitchen.

*Hall 4 and 5*

Halls 4 and 5 span between the Auditorium, the Gymnasium and the Carriage House. This space was originally an outdoor covered walkway. At the south end, there is a narrow landing in front of the gymnasium and auditorium doors. Two concrete steps run east/west the full width of the hall from the landing down to the corridor. The stair to the basement under the Kitchen is located in the southwest corner of the landing. The corridor extends along the east side of the Carriage House. Unadorned pipe columns are still visible amongst the modern finishes at the concrete steps and spaced along the length of the corridor.

The corridor was enclosed in the late-twentieth century with wood frame construction set between the original pipe columns. At that time, the hall was divided into two sections: Hall 4, the south section, extends from the auditorium to the middle of the Carriage House, and Hall 5, the north section, is simply a continuation of Hall 4 but is separated by a door opening. There is a single exterior door at the north end of Hall 5. A series of clerestory windows along the east wall provide natural light for both halls. There is no pattern to these windows; they are narrow and their sills are set at approximately the same height. There are classrooms and other auxiliary space at the first floor of the Carriage House which are accessed from these halls along their west side. There is a single door leading to the stair and hall to the second floor of the Carriage House located at the north end of Hall 4.

The floor throughout both Hall 4 and Hall 5 is concrete. The interior walls along the Carriage House are finished with stucco and have multiple-light industrial steel windows similar to the gymnasium windows. The walls along the Gymnasium and School Building are concrete block. The modern exterior walls are wood frame clad with particle board. The stair to the basement is poured concrete and is surrounded by a floor-to-ceiling chain link wall with a chain link gate at the north end.



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**Carriage House**

The first floor of the Carriage House consists of three primary classrooms, Classroom 4 at the south end, Studio 10 in the center, and the Dark Room to the north. A center set of stairs rises to the second floor between Classroom 4 and Studio 10.

*Classroom 4*

Classroom 4 is a moderate-sized rectangular space that occupies of the south end of the original footprint of the Carriage House. The door to Hall 4 and two sets of steel windows are on the east wall. There are two closets along the north wall, one of which is set under the stair to the second floor. The flooring is resilient tile, the walls are gypsum board but the original bead board wall finish is visible in some areas. The ceiling was also originally clad with bead board but is now covered with acoustic tile over gypsum wallboard.

*Studio 10*

Studio 10 is a rectangular space set to the north of the stair to the second floor. It runs about half the depth of the first floor of the Carriage House with a single storage room accessed from this space in the southwest corner. Studio 10 also serves as the access to the former Dark Room located to the north. A narrow corridor has been constructed between the two spaces in order to maintain darkness in the Dark Room. There is single door and window in the east wall at Hall 5. The finishes in Studio 10 are all late-twentieth-century material and match the modern finishes in Classroom 4. The flooring is resilient tile, the walls are gypsum board, and the ceiling is covered with acoustic tile.

*Dark Room*

The Dark Room is a long rectangular space located at the north end of the Carriage House and is the full depth of the building with a small washroom located to the southwest. The only access is via Studio 10 along a narrow corridor set between the two spaces. There is window in the east wall but it has been covered with finishes on the Dark Room side.

Second Floor

**George A. Strong Residence**

The second floor consists of the stair hall, connecting halls and seven studios (former bedrooms). The wall finishes are typically plaster without wood wainscot and the ceiling finishes are typically plaster with areas of adhered acoustical tile. While some of the wood flooring remains, vinyl tiles cover much of the existing floor. The doors vary, with most being typically paneled wood. The tall wood base with moulded top edge, and the door trim and window surrounds, including crown moulding, mimics those found on the first floor. Many of the rooms are fitted with small fireplaces. The surrounds of the fireplaces tend to be simple with some exceptions.

The servants' wing is the area of the second floor that has been the most significantly altered for the conversion to school use, similar to the first floor. These spaces, which currently consist of Studios 6 and 7 and the adjoining smaller spaces, contain more rooms and spaces, the servants' stair to the first floor and the dark room created specifically for Harriet E. Strong, who was an amateur photographer.

*Hall 1*

Hall 1 sits above the center hall of the first floor within the main section but occupies only the west two-thirds of the depth of the house and consists of three sections. The first section, located to the west, consists of the hall and main stair as well as the stair to the third floor, which is located along the west wall. The second section is a small vestibule

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in the southeast corner that opens to the two studios (former bedrooms) at the front, or east, side of the house. The third section is the long corridor that runs east/west along the north side of the main part of the hall and stair and connects the other studios within the main section and servants' wing to the hall.

The primary feature of the space is the staircase that descends to the first floor level. The features of the stair, including wood treads and risers, balustrade and railing with turned balusters and u-shaped configuration, are a continuation of the stair from the first floor level. At the second floor level, the stair is enclosed by a glass and wood partition at its east and north sides, which was installed in the 1970s. In the west exterior wall are three openings that formerly held stained glass windows; the stained glass was removed and discarded when the school building addition was constructed. Two of these windows currently look into a hall that connects the main building to the school building. The third window opens to the exterior.

The secondary feature of the space is the stair to the third floor level (Photograph 0020) that is set along the east wall and winds to the south. The stair is enclosed by a simple wood balustrade and railing, and a low wall encloses the winding section of the stair at its north end. This low wall is finished at its top by a simple wood balustrade.

*Studio 1*

Studio 1 occupies the northeast corner of the main section and is a rectangular space with a large alcove at its north end with an adjoining closet. There is a fireplace set approximately center on its west wall. The walls and ceilings are finished with plaster, the wood base and trim at the windows and doors is typical for second floor spaces.

*Studio 2*

Studio 2 occupies the northwest corner of the main section and is a rectangular space with a small closet located along its west wall. A fireplace is located along the east wall in the south corner. Three grouped windows are centered along the north exterior wall. Access is via hall 1 along its south wall. The floor is painted strip wood flooring, the ceiling is finished with plaster with a moulded plaster cornice, and the walls are finished with plaster with a moulded wood base.

*Studio 3*

Studio 3 is centered along the east end of the main section. It is a square space with a grouping of three windows set off-center of the east wall and an alcove along its west wall. The windows share a single opening finished with moulded trim. A door connects this space to its two neighboring spaces, one in the north wall and one in the south wall. There is a single door in the west wall to hall 1. The floor is painted strip wood, the ceiling is acoustical tile with a moulded plaster cornice, and the walls are finished with plaster with a moulded wood base.

*Studio 4*

Studio 4 is a rectangular space that occupies the southeast corner of the main section and has two alcoves; the first serves as the entrance along the west wall and the second is at the south end of the room. Each alcove is set off by a wide opening with plaster surround. There is a corner fireplace set in the southwest corner of the space. There is a bow window projection at the east wall and small windows in the east and south walls within the alcove. The door to the hall is located in the north wall. There is a small closet in the west wall of the entry alcove. The floor is painted strip wood flooring, the ceiling is acoustical tile with a plaster cornice, and the walls are finished with plaster with a moulded wood base.

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The corner fireplace has a moulded wood surround, tile inset, shallow brick firebox and a mirror set above the mantel. There is a small shallow closet to the north of the fireplace. Two doors set top to bottom and finished with moulded trim and architrave enclose the closet.

*Studio 5*

Studio 5 is a rectangular space that occupies the southwest corner of the main section and is separated from the main hall by an alcove. Off this entry alcove is a former sleeping porch. The entry alcove has two closets along its east wall, the entrance to the sleeping porch is to its west and to the main roof is to its south. At the south end of the roof is a bay window projection and along the east wall is a small alcove containing a sink in the south corner and a fireplace set approximately center on the wall (Photograph 0021). There is also a small closet to the north of the fireplace. The floor is painted strip wood flooring, the walls and ceiling are finished with plaster, and there is a moulded wood base.

The fireplace has a moulded wood surround, tile inset and a shallow brick firebox. The surround has two pilasters at its corner and moulded trim set in a geometric pattern between the tile surround and the mantle. The mantle shelf is wood with a deep recess above it, and there is a wood moulded surround, similar in detailing to the main space, that incorporates both the fireplace and the opening to the southeast alcove.

The small former sleeping porch (Photograph 0022) is a rectangular space, which is characterized by two fully glazed walls on its south and west sides. The glass panels are set on a low wood-frame wall with a plaster finish and two Doric columns are set along the west wall; one column is in the southwest corner and the other is located at about center of the wall. The flooring is linoleum over wood strip flooring. The east wall is brick with a stucco finish and the north wall is finished with plasterboard. The ceiling is beaded board with a stained finish.

*Studio 6*

Studio 6 is a square room located on the north side of the main building toward the west end at the transition between the main section and the servants' wing. The space has a counter and sink located along the east wall and a newer closet in the southwest corner. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is covered with textured paint, and the walls are finished with plasterboard with a wood base.

*Studio 7*

Studio 7 is a large square room located in the northwest corner of the servants' wing. The northwest corner of the space is dominated by a series of small closets. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is finished with plaster with a wood cornice, and the walls are finished with plasterboard with a moulded wood base.

*Hall 2*

Hall 2 is a small L-shaped space that connects the west extension of the main hall and the main building to the stair at the school building. The hall marks the transition between the historic part of the building and the mid-twentieth-century additions. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is gypsum wallboard, and the walls are rough finished plaster with a wood base. This space opens to a secondary hall that is the stair tower of the school building addition, which is not part of the main building's original footprint.



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**School Building**

The second floor of the School Building is similar to the first. It has a central corridor that extends east/west with three classrooms along the south side. Unlike the first floor, there are also classrooms on the north side. They are placed over the south alcove of the Gymnasium.

*Hall 3*

Hall 3 is a long corridor that extends most of the width of the School Building. At its east and west ends, it is wider extending to Stair Hall 1 (east) and Stair Hall 2 (west). Opposite Stair Hall 1 is a single restroom. A tripartite aluminum window is centered in the east wall between the restroom and Stair Hall 1 facing east. A second window extends the full width of the wall between the restroom and the first classroom; it is identical to the second floor classroom windows. The finishes are similar to those found at the first floor level of the school building. A large storage closet occupies the west end of the corridor. The floor is finished with vinyl tile, the walls are exposed concrete block and the ceiling is dropped acoustic tile.

*Classroom 1*

Classroom 1 occupies the northeast corner of Hall 3. It is a long narrow windowless space with two doors to the hall on its south wall and a door opening in its west wall adjoining Classroom 2. The adjoining door is no longer functional.

*Classroom 2*

Classroom 2 adjoins Classroom 1 on its east side and is similar to Classroom 1 as a long narrow windowless space with two doors to the hall on its south wall.

*South Classrooms*

The three classrooms to the south of Hall 3 are virtually identical to each other and to the first floor classrooms below them. One large window unit occupies the entire south wall and there is a single door to the hall on the north wall. The window unit spans from floor to ceiling and wall to wall. It consists of five wide aluminum sash divided by mullions. The units each have solid panels top and bottom; between the solid panels the units are identical to the first floor windows, an awning sash below a larger sash. Each of the second floor classrooms has either one or two closets constructed of wood in the northwest corner. The finishes match those in the Hall.

*Storage*

The storage room is an L-shaped space located at the west end of Hall 4. It is a windowless space with a single door in its east wall providing access to the hall. The room contains both shelving for storage and components of the heating system. The floor is unfinished concrete, the walls are unpainted concrete block and the ceiling is fiber board with exposed steel trusses.

**Carriage House**

The second floor of the Carriage House consists of a central stair that rises east to west to a very small hallway at the top of the stair. The hall is surrounded by a single large room, the Photography Studio, on the south side and four smaller studios on the north side, Studios 8, 9 10 and 11. Three of the four north studios, as well as a restroom, are only accessible by entering through Studio 8. Most of the finishes in the Carriage House are modern and vary from room to room. Original trim consists of a molded wood surround with bulls-eye corner blocks remains at some of the windows and doors.



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*Stair*

The stair within the Carriage House is off-set to the south and rises straight up to the west connecting the first floor corridor with a series of spaces at the second floor of the Carriage House. Originally the first floor door to the stairs would have been exterior providing the caretaker private access to apartment. A window centered in the east wall provides natural light into the stair hall.

At the top of the stairs, the hall is divided into two parts, the first is the landing immediately at the top of the stairs and the second is a small area to the north which is separated by an original door opening. The door has been removed. From the landing, a door opening to the south leads to the Photography Studio. The north section has two openings: one to the north to Studio 8 and one to the east to Studio 10.

The stairs are wood frame covered in non-slip vinyl covers. The floor in the hall is covered with resilient tile. The walls are a mix of gypsum board on the second floor level and wood beaded board adjacent to the stair. The ceiling is gypsum board. The door and window trim is all original.

*Photography Studio*

The Photography Studio is a large rectangular room that occupies the south end of the second floor. Two modern closets have been constructed in the northwest corner. All but one of the four windows along the south wall and three windows on the west have been covered from the interior. An exterior door in the east wall leads to the hall roof, it is modern. The interior door is centered in the north wall. All of the visible trim, doors and window sashes are modern. The floor is covered with white board to improve conditions for photography except in the closets where it is plywood. The walls are covered with a plaster board and homosote. The earlier finishes are discernable in certain areas and include beaded board wainscot. The ceiling is gypsum wallboard.

*Studio 8*

Studio 8 is a medium-sized rectangular room to the north and west of the Stair Hall. Its north wall is almost fully opened to Studio 9. There is a small restroom and a closet to the south of Studio 8 directly accessed only through Studio 8. A large single window is centered in the west wall of Studio 8 and a small window is in the south corner of the restroom. The floor is plywood. The walls are gypsum board with a tall wooden base. The ceiling is gypsum board. The interior door trim to the Hall is original but the rest is modern. The doors and window sashes are replacements.

*Studio 9*

Studio 9 is a medium-sized square room that adjoins Studio 8 to the south. It occupies the northwest corner of the Carriage House. There is a single window in the north wall at the east corner that is covered and a single window is located in the west wall. The floor is plywood. The walls are gypsum board with a tall wooden base. The ceiling is gypsum board. The door and window trim are modern. The window sashes are replacements.

*Studio 10*

Studio 10 is located north of the stair. It is a small square room with a door in the west wall leading to the stair hall and one in the east wall leading to the roof over the enclosed porch on the first floor. This opening appears to have originally been a window opening. A large window is located in the northeast corner. The floor is carpeted. The walls are gypsum board with a tall wooden base. The ceiling is gypsum board. The interior door trim is original but the rest is modern. The doors and windows are replacements.

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*Studio 11*

Studio 11 is a medium-sized square room that occupies the northeast corner of the second floor of the Carriage House. There is a former opening along the north wall and a pair of windows in the east wall. Access to this space is only via Studio 8. The floor is carpeted. The walls are gypsum board with a short modern wooden base. The ceiling is gypsum board. The interior door trim is original but the window trim is modern. The doors and window sashes are replacements.

Third Floor

***George A. Strong Residence***

The third floor consists of the main stair hall, additional narrow halls, five studios and one restroom. The wall finishes are typically plaster, although wood wainscoting is found. The flat sections of ceiling are typically covered with adhered acoustical tile and the sloped areas are finished with plaster. Most of the wood flooring is covered with vinyl tiles. The doors vary, although most are typically paneled wood. The wood bases, door trim and window surrounds reflect that on the second floor.

*Hall 1*

Hall 1 sits above the hall of the second floor within the main section, but it is a narrower space in the east/west direction so it is essentially a corridor that runs north/south and turns west to a narrower corridor. There is an adjoining corridor to the south and to the west. The stair to the second floor is enclosed along the east wall. There are a series of windows along the west wall and one in the south wall where the corridor narrows. The finishes are typical of the third floor.

*Hall 2*

Hall 2 occupies the south end of the main section. It is an irregular-shaped hall composed of a series of short corridors with one dormer each on the west and south walls. There is a window in the west dormer and a door in the south dormer; the door was added in the 1970s to serve as a fire exit. A small wooden stair leads to this door. The floor is finished with vinyl tile, the ceiling is finished with acoustical tile and the walls are a mix of finishes including gypsum wallboard, faux paneling and composition board.

*Studio 1*

Studio 1 occupies the southeast corner of the main section. There is a single dormer along the east wall and a fireplace (Photograph 0023) along the south wall. There is a small alcove in the southeast corner. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is acoustical tile and gypsum wallboard, and the walls are painted paneling with some plasterboard finishes.

*Studio 2*

Studio 2 occupies the center space at the east side of the main section. It contains two dormers along its east wall and there is a closet in the northeast corner. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is acoustical tile and gypsum wallboard, and the walls are finished with plasterboard.

*Studio 3*

Studio 3 occupies the northeast corner of the main section. There is a single dormer along the north wall and a small closet along the east wall. The floor is finished with wood strip flooring, the ceiling is finished with plaster, and the walls are primarily plasterboard with some wood paneling at the dormer and a moulded wood base.

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*Studio 4*

Studio 4 is set center along the north side of the main section at the transition with the servants' wing. There is a single dormer window in the northwest corner at the north wall. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is finished with acoustical tile at the flat sections and plaster at the sloped section, and the walls are finished with plasterboard.

*Studio 5*

Studio 5 occupies the west end of the servants' wing. It is a rectangular space with two dormers, one along the north wall in the east corner, and one centered on the west wall. There is a small closet in the southeast corner adjacent to the door to the hall. There is a former skylight in an original opening along the south wall, which is covered with plywood. The floor is painted vinyl tile, the ceiling is finished with plasterboard with a simple moulding, and the walls are finished with plasterboard with a moulded wood base. Thin wood paneling has been applied over the wall finishes except at the hall wall and the dormer.

*Hall 3*

Hall 3 is set at the west end of the narrow corridor of hall 1. It is a narrow rectangular space with a small bathroom on its west side and opens to a larger rectangular hall to the south. The floor is vinyl tile, the ceiling is plaster, and the walls are gypsum wallboard at the west and south walls, and covered with faux wood paneling at the east and north walls.

*Hall 4*

The hall is part of the main building and serves as the transition to the stair hall within the school building. There is a single window in the south wall and the hall opens to the stair in the west wall. The floor is finished with vinyl tile, the ceiling is gypsum wallboard, and the walls are gypsum wallboard with a wood base.



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## 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 grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☒ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the George A. Strong Residence is 1896 through 1965. Significant dates include 1896 for the construction of the residence, 1933 for the purchase of the building by the Wardlaw School and construction of the gymnasium, 1947 for construction of the chapel/library, 1960 for construction of the first phase of the school building, and 1965 for construction of the second phase of the school building.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

All additions to the George A. Strong Residence are contributing, including the 1965 School Building addition. This portion of the building is less than 50 years old but is significant because it represents the last major alteration made by the Wardlaw School before it relocated to a new facility.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

Education

### Period of Significance

1896-1965

### Significant Dates

1896, 1933, 1948, 1960, 1965

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Rossiter & Wright, Architects

John Abbott, Builder

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## Statement of Significance

See Continuation Sheet.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☒ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: duCret School of Art

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.97 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 549310 4495065  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See Continuation Sheet.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret M. Hickey, Historic Preservation Specialist; Kathryn L. Ritson, Historic Preservation Specialist;  
Beth A. Bjorklund, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Connolly & Hickey Historic Architects, LLC

date 26 May 2012

street & number P.O. Box 1726

telephone 973-746-4911

city or town Cranford

state New Jersey zip code 07016

e-mail mhickey@chhistoricalarchitects.com

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs:

See Continuation Sheet.

### Property Owner:

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

name duCret School of Art

street & number 1030 Central Avenue

telephone 908-757-7171

city or town City of Plainfield

state New Jersey zip code 07060

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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**Summary Paragraph**

The George A. Strong Residence is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the suburban development of Plainfield in the nineteenth century. It also is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Education for its association with the Country Day School movement of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries when it served as the Wardlaw School. Finally, it also meets Criterion C for local architectural significance, as it is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture prevalent at the turn of the twentieth century. Built for a prominent lawyer, the house represents the grand architecture characteristic of Plainfield as an affluent community in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The house has retained most of its original windows, doors, porches and bay projections, as well as its original interior configuration of spaces, windows and door surrounds, baseboards, chair rails and other decorative details. The period of significance is 1896, for the construction of the home, to 1965 when the Wardlaw School made its last expansion to the building and began looking for new facilities.

**Historical Background**

*History of Plainfield*

The development of Plainfield since the early-eighteenth century has been influenced by its proximity to the Green Brook (which forms a natural boundary between it and surrounding communities), the Watchung Mountains and the major ports and business centers found not only in New York City but also in Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City and Perth Amboy. Advances in transportation have also greatly influenced the development of the City.

The area that is now considered Plainfield was first settled in the seventeenth century when the land was purchased by Benjamin Hull c. 1683 and by Peter Sonmans in 1685.<sup>1</sup> Settlement of the Plainfield area is said to have occurred via Perth Amboy and Woodbridge, which are located short distances to the east and were major colonial ports. Settlement in the late-seventeenth century, however, was sparse; the biggest influx of farmers and others came in the early-eighteenth century. Farming, with related mills, was the main industry in the region's early settlement. In 1735, the population of the hamlet was approximately ten people, increasing over the next forty years to a population of approximately fifty-five people at the beginning of the American Revolution. By that time there were mills, a store and several houses.<sup>2</sup> Plainfield was also a stop on the Old York Road (now Front Street) formally established in 1765, which served as a major artery between Philadelphia and New York.

Following the American Revolution, Plainfield was part of the early national period of development with the gradual expansion of industry and business in the region, including a growing number and variety of mills, as well as the production of such consumer products as hats, clothes and lumber. Hat making, firmly established in the early-nineteenth century, helped to change the region from solely a farming community into a growing commercial center. All of this commercial activity brought about other establishments to support the growing community. By 1835, Plainfield boasted ten hat factories, six tailors, six dry goods stores, one grocery, six shoe shops, one tannery, a fire insurance company, five places of worship and the first local newspaper.<sup>3</sup> Plainfield, which was formerly a part of Westfield Township, was established as a township in 1847 with its official boundaries being established in 1858. The turning point for most communities in the region in the early-nineteenth century was the introduction of the railroad. Plainfield's growth had been consistent since the end of the eighteenth century due in part to its location along the Old York Road, but was further spurred by the introduction of the Elizabeth and Somerville Railroad, later

<sup>1</sup> *Plainfield 300 Years: 1684-1984* (Plainfield: Jostens, Inc., 1987), 6-7.

<sup>2</sup> *Plainfield 300 Years: 1684-1984*, 16.

<sup>3</sup> F.T. Smiley, Ed., *History of Plainfield and North Plainfield* (Plainfield: Courier News, 1901), 14.

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the Central Railroad of New Jersey, in 1839. The railroad facilitated travel to and from New York City and across northern New Jersey and also promoted the expansion of commerce and industry along its route between Jersey City on the Hudson River and Phillipsburg on the Delaware River.

While much of Union County remained decidedly rural in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, Plainfield's population expanded increasingly in both the number of businesses and commercial enterprises as well as in residential construction. Plainfield initially attracted New York businessmen as a summer retreat in the mid-nineteenth century. It was during this period that the gradual shift from urban living to rural or semi-rural living was made, coupled with the shift from home-based businesses to one where most men left the home for industrial or commercial enterprise. These events translated into a marked change in cultural values and ideals in the middle part of the nineteenth century<sup>4</sup> that were widely published between 1835 and 1875 by architects, landscape architects, ministers and theorists. These publications, seeing widespread popularity, helped to create a new suburban vision of community.<sup>5</sup>

In 1869, Plainfield was incorporated as a city with its population reaching just under 5,000 inhabitants. The City had become increasingly attractive to New York City businessmen and their families as a place to build their permanent residences. They sought the suburban life as a means of escaping the urban centers that had become less desirable due to overcrowding as well as the noise and pollution of new manufacturing enterprises. The wealthy and middle class sought to expand into the rural sections of New Jersey and brought with them the new ideas on architecture and the ideal home life. There was also a greater separation between work and home, making the home "a private refuge, a place of peace and inspiration, a reward for diligence and thrift."<sup>6</sup> As a result, large houses reflecting the tastes of the owners and the styles of the period proliferated and transformed Plainfield into a suburban enclave with a strong and vibrant commercial center.

An observer from the early-twentieth century noted that "More than any other city on the line of the Jersey Central, it has attracted the wealth and fashion of New York to locate here permanently, and its easy access to New York by any one of the 90 trains a day makes the town an ideal place for the busy New York man."<sup>7</sup> The steady growth of permanent residents (over 15,000 inhabitants by 1900) and established businesses transformed Plainfield so that by the early 1920s the City had four department stores, twenty-six dry good stores, seventeen drug stores, meat markets, hardware stores, fifteen office buildings, auto-dealers and a host of other business enterprises serving not only Plainfield residents but also the greater Plainfield area. The trolley line, established in 1892, had been expanded, and the trains were in constant use transporting area residents to New York City, with 120 daily runs in 1911. The first out-of-city bus line was established in 1909.

In 1926, the *Courier-News* noted, "The Plainfields are unusual as compared with other places in that they are famed for their beautiful residences, while at the same time large manufacturing interests are located here, giving employment to highly skilled artisans."<sup>8</sup> The article further noted that the city had been called "The City of Homes, the Queen City of New Jersey"<sup>9</sup> due to its bucolic setting and attraction to city dwellers. By 1926, Plainfield was home to fifteen public schools, two high schools and three parochial schools as well as Mount St. Mary's College for girls, the Hartridge

<sup>4</sup> Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 47 – 48.

<sup>5</sup> Jackson, 61.

<sup>6</sup> Gwendolyn Wright, *Building the American Dream: A Social History of Housing in America*, (New York: Random House, 1981), 108.

<sup>7</sup> John A. Grady and Dorothe M. Pollard, *Images of America: Plainfield*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2001), 57.

<sup>8</sup> "Plainfield and Vicinity in Pictures" (Plainfield, NJ: *Courier-News*, 1926), no page number.

<sup>9</sup> "Plainfield and Vicinity in Pictures"

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School for girls, the Wardlaw School for boys, and other private schools.

Residential development of larger and medium-sized houses continued in the City into the early-twentieth century and began to slow for a period in the late 1920s and early 1930s due to the Great Depression. After World War II, many of the City's larger mansions began to be reconfigured for use as apartments as more people from the South, particularly African Americans, began to settle in the area and work in the local factories.<sup>10</sup>

By the 1960s, the cultural and racial makeup of the City had changed and, similar to other cities in the country, racial conflicts arose and led to riots in the summer of 1967. As the City recovered from these conflicts, there was a period of urban renewal in the 1970s, particularly in the commercial district. Many of the older commercial buildings in the downtown area were demolished thereby dramatically changing its physical landscape. However, in the older residential neighborhoods a greater appreciation for the older mansions was realized and concerted efforts were taken to develop historic districts and to preserve individual residences beginning in the late 1980s through to today.

The George Strong Residence is a by-product of the transformation of Plainfield from a farming community to an urban center with a strong residential component. The construction of the building and its adaptive use as two different schools reflect the growth and development of Plainfield in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

George A. Strong Residence

In 1896, George A. Strong purchased property at 1030 Central Avenue from Thompson E.T. Randolph and his wife. The property was approximately seven acres composed of two parcels and was purchased for a total cost of \$30,000. Deeds outline the purchase of two parcels with each deed noting that the land shall be used only for the construction of a dwelling house and that the dwelling house or houses shall not be less than \$5,000 in value. At the time Strong purchased the property, the City of Plainfield was experiencing increased residential and commercial growth. Such residential growth included the areas south and east of the central business district located near the railroad. When Strong constructed his residence southeast of Randolph Road along Central Avenue there were few residences constructed, and those that were built were set on large pieces of property.

George A. Strong was the second eldest child and the first-born son of George P. and Melinda Strong. He was born in Port Gibson, Mississippi in 1848 and moved with his family to Missouri in 1852. His father George P. Strong was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1840 and beginning in 1843 maintained a career in law. The family moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 1852 where he continued to practice law. Strong was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1865 and also served as the chairman of the Committee on Emancipation, and "brought in the Ordinance of Emancipation which passed January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1865, making Missouri a free State."<sup>11</sup> He held the commission of major during the Civil War and served as a staff member to General Edwards in the service of the State of Missouri. He was nominated to serve as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Missouri and for Governor of Missouri, but declined both nominations.<sup>12</sup> George A. Strong followed in his father footsteps. He first attended Yale University and received a B.A. in 1871. He was honored for abilities in English composition and was editor of the Yale Literary Magazine his senior year. After leaving Yale University he taught from 1871 to 1872 at the Flushing Institute in Queens, New York, a private school for boys that was attended by boys from prominent families of Long Island and New York. Strong also studied at Columbia Law School and was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1873. Between

<sup>10</sup> Damien Cave, "In a Divided Town, a Question of Hate, or Cash?" (New York: *The New York Times*, October 24, 2004)

<sup>11</sup> Samuel Miller, *Presbyterian Reunion: A Memorial Volume, 1837-1871*, (New York: De Witt C. Lent & Company, 1870), 524.

<sup>12</sup> Miller, 524.



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1876 and 1879 he was a member of the firm Strong & Strong<sup>13</sup> of Buffalo, New York and moved to New York in 1879. In 1879, the firm of Duer, Strong & Jarvis was established in New York City, and in 1897 was reorganized as Duer, Strong & Whitehead.<sup>14</sup> George A. Strong retired from the law practice circa 1916.

In 1878, Strong married Harriet Efner Wheelock. Harriet Efner Wheelock was born in England of American-born parents, William Almy Wheelock and Harriett Efner Wheelock in 1854. William A. Wheelock was the President of the Council of New York University (NYU) from 1898 until his death in 1905. Wheelock was born in Providence, Rhode Island and moved to New York at the age of twelve to attend the grammar school at NYU, graduating from the college at the age of eighteen. After graduation he worked in the mercantile business and retired at the age of thirty-seven with a large fortune, which allowed him to pursue philanthropic and other interests. In 1864 he became Director and later President of the Central National Bank. Resigning this position in 1881, he devoted his time to his philanthropic work, to New York University and as a director for a number of large corporations.<sup>15</sup>

George and Harriet had four children, Harriet, Agnes, Malcolm Wheelock and Helen. When they were first married, George and Harriet lived at West 106<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City and, according to the *1880 United States Census*, lived with one servant, Annie Leary, who was from Ireland. They later moved to West 48<sup>th</sup> Street and remained in New York until 1895 when they moved to Plainfield, New Jersey.<sup>16</sup> They first rented a house at 144 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Plainfield, possibly while their residence was being built on Central Avenue.

In 1896, Strong hired the nationally recognized architectural firm of Rossiter & Wright of 47 Liberty Street, New York City to design his new residence in Plainfield. Ehrick Kensett Rossiter and Frank Ayres Wright published the book *Authentic Color Schemes for Victorian Houses: Comstock's Modern House Painting, 1883*. The authors' intent was to inspire the use of color in late-nineteenth-century residential architecture by offering lessons in color matching, and the preparation, use and application of colors. The book offered a number of full-color examples.<sup>17</sup> The firm constructed a number of private residences in the New York Metropolitan area as well as civic buildings, including South Orange's municipal building.

The house was designed in 1896 and constructed by John Abbott in the fall/winter of the same year. The design was later published in 1903 in the *Scientific American Building Supplement*. The supplement describes the residence:

The building is designed in the Colonial style. It has two swell bay windows at the front, as well as a porch and terrace. The underpinning is built of rock-faced gray stone, and the superstructure of buff brick laid in buff mortar. The trimmings are painted white. The roof is covered with shingles and stained a dull shade of green. The chimneys are built the same as the main part of the house...

The plan shows a central hall, which is trimmed with mahogany and has a paneled

<sup>13</sup> George A. Strong's uncles were lawyers and this was probably one of the uncle's law practices.

<sup>14</sup> *Columbia University Quarterly*, (New York: The Columbia University Press, Volume IV: 1901 – 1902), 105.

<sup>15</sup> "William A. Wheelock Dead. Was the President of the Council of New York University," Obituary, (New York: *The New York Times*, July 7, 1905).

<sup>16</sup> Terry Scutro, "The George A. Strong Residence, Eyewitness to 110 Years of History – 1030 Central Avenue, Plainfield, NJ", Self-published, December 18, 2007. (Found in the archives of the duCret School of Arts), 3.

<sup>17</sup> E. K. Rossiter & F.A. Wright, *Color Schemes for Victorian Houses – Comstock's Modern House Painting 1883*, (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., Republished 2001), 7 – 16.

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wainscot, a beamed ceiling, and a broad, sweeping staircase, with a newel-post formed of a cluster of spindle balusters...<sup>18</sup>

The article also provided extensive information about the interior details of the house from the basement through the third floor level and, as noted in Section 7, the majority of these interior features have been retained. The house included many amenities such as reception, living and dining rooms on the first floor; bathrooms on the second floor; a servants' wing; and a unique feature, a dark room, which was used by Harriet Strong, who was an amateur photographer.

By 1910, the family was living at 1030 Central Avenue with their two daughters, Agnes <sup>19</sup> and Helen, and three servants.<sup>20</sup> During this period, in addition to his law career, Strong also served as director of the Phoenix Assurance and Phoenix Indemnity companies, and was a member of council of New York University 1907-1925; he served as secretary during most of his tenure. While in residence in Plainfield, the Strongs were members of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church. Strong's obituary noted he was active in the Sunday school programs at the church and in the work of the Bethel Chapel connected with the church. He also contributed articles on theological subjects to *The New York Tribune*.

George Strong passed away in May 1926. His wife, Harriet, continued to live at the Central Avenue residence with three servants in the house, and with John Collins, his wife and married daughter living in the carriage house on the property. In 1930, the house was valued at \$90,000, which far exceeded her neighbors' homes.<sup>21</sup> After Harriet's death in 1931, the house was vacant with only the Collins family living in the carriage house.

Wardlaw School

It was not until June 3, 1933, that the house was sold to The Wardlaw School, a private all-boys school, which was owned and operated by Charles Digby Wardlaw. The Wardlaw School was originally The Leal School for Boys, founded in Plainfield, New Jersey in 1882 by John Leal. The school served boys ages ten years and up, and was started by Mr. Leal to serve boys specifically from the Plainfield area. Leal had been teaching at Pingry School in Elizabeth when he developed the idea to begin a school in Plainfield since many children traveled from Plainfield to attend Pingry. The Leal School was originally located on Front Street and had its first graduating class in 1883. By 1884, it had sixty-one boys and seven teachers. The Leal School continued to expand between 1884 and 1896 when an expansion of the school facilities permitted the education of boys younger than ten years of age.

In 1911, Charles Digby Wardlaw began serving as an assistant principal after answering an advertisement. He had graduated in 1909 with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina. In 1916, when Leal decided to retire, Wardlaw purchased the school and changed its name to the Wardlaw School and bought a building on Park Avenue. Soon after this purchase he added a gymnasium fitted "with the latest and best athletic apparatus."<sup>22</sup> Wardlaw was a huge advocate for physical and athletic activities as part of the academic process. He was also author

<sup>18</sup> "A Residence at Plainfield, NJ", *Scientific American Builder's Monthly*, Vol. 213, (New York: Munn & Co. Publishers, July 1903).

<sup>19</sup> It should be noted that Agnes is shown living with her grandparents in the 1900 United States Census.

<sup>20</sup> Year 1910; Census Place: Plainfield Ward 3, Union, New Jersey; Roll: T624\_910; Page: 27A; Enumeration District: 0096; Image: 961; FHL Number: 1374923. Available from Internet: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>21</sup> Year: 1930; Census Place: Plainfield, Union, New Jersey; Roll: 1388; Page: 10A; Enumeration District: 117; Image: 973.0. Available from Internet: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>22</sup> Nancy Rogers, ed., "The Wardlaw-Hartridge School: Strength from Our Roots," (Warren, NJ: Sahlman Art Studio, April 1996), 28.

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of a number of books on baseball and basketball including one he published with Helen Front on teaching basketball and indoor baseball to young women.<sup>23</sup> During his early tenure, the Wardlaw School continued to grow so that by 1933 they were ready for newer and larger facilities. Wardlaw purchased the property in 1030 Central Avenue from the estate of Harriet Strong. He purchased it at the height of the Great Depression for \$20,000; he only needed to put \$2,000 down, and the rest was financed through a bank loan. In 1933, enrollment at the new location was over 100 students with fifteen teachers.

When Wardlaw moved to the Strong residence on Central Avenue, a gymnasium, costing \$6,000, was added through a generous donation by the Laidlaw family. In addition, Charles Wardlaw had some rooms altered in order to be used for offices while the remainder of the building, about twenty-one spaces, served as classrooms. New tennis courts and a baseball diamond were constructed on the seven-acre property. At the time, *The Courier-News* stated it was "one of the most complete out-fitted country day schools in [the] U.S." The school offered academic excellence as well as competed athletically in football, basketball and baseball.

In 1947, the original carriage house was burned in a fire and later rebuilt as a training shop, which included a kindergarten and an apartment on the second floor for a custodian. In 1948, a Memorial Chapel was built in the spot of an open porch at the southwest corner of the original house. The porch was enlarged and enclosed and was used for daily morning services announcements.

Charles D. Wardlaw was injured in a car accident in 1947; however, he continued to run the school despite the seriousness of his injuries. Charles continued as headmaster until 1959, with his son, Fred, serving as principal. In 1959, Charles Wardlaw decided to retire and through the efforts of Charles Detwiller, a local architect, former student, and parent to a student at the time, developed a Board of Trustees that purchased the school and took over its operation. Charles Wardlaw passed away the following year at the age of 78.<sup>24</sup>

With the change in ownership came a change in name to the Wardlaw County Day School, Inc. Prentice Horne became the school's new headmaster and during his tenure the school experienced significant growth. The student body grew, necessitating the construction of additional classrooms and an auditorium in 1960. This addition was further expanded with additional classrooms at the second floor in 1965. Despite the expansion in 1965, the school required additional facilities and in 1966 a fundraising campaign was started to raise money for a new school. In 1967, property on Inman Avenue was purchased and a new school constructed over the next two years; the Wardlaw County Day School continued to use the Central Avenue facilities as well. In 1975, the school merged with the Hartridge School, an all-girls private day school. At that time, the school consolidated from three campuses to two and ultimately closed the Central Avenue facilities.

In 1977, the duCret School of Art purchased the Central Avenue property for purposes of art education. The school, originally known as the Van Emburgh School of Fine Art, was founded in 1926 by artist Marjorie Van Emburgh. In 1964, the school was acquired by Dudley V. duCret and its name changed to the Van Emburgh/duCret School of Fine and Industrial Art. It operated as a private institution and Ms. Van Emburgh continued to teach until 1975. In 1970, the school changed its organizational structure to operate as a nonprofit corporation and again changed its name to The duCret School of the Arts, Inc. In purchasing the 1030 Central Avenue property and school buildings in 1977, duCret adapted the facility for use as a post-secondary art school that reached New Jersey students from a large geographic region. After the buildings were purchased, duCret renovated the second and third floor levels so

<sup>23</sup> Various references on the Internet.

<sup>24</sup> "Charles D. Wardlaw," Obituary (New York: *The New York Times*, October 4, 1960).



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the rooms could be used for boarding students. The chapel was converted for use as the library, and the gymnasium was converted for use as the fine art studio.

The school maintained a period of steady growth through the 1980s but saw a decline in enrollment in the mid-to-late 1990s as priorities in higher education switched from private career and vocational schools to one where a student received an academic degree.<sup>25</sup> Despite these setbacks, the school continues to offer quality art education and has expanded its programming. Recently, the school has seen a steady increase in enrollment. As the oldest private art school in New Jersey, the school remains as one of a kind in the state.

**Historic and Architectural Significance**

The George A. Strong Residence is significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development at the local level for its association with the growth and development of the City of Plainfield in the late-twentieth century, particularly its period of growth as a suburban enclave brought about by the development of a network of transportation systems. The increase in industrialization in New Jersey in the latter half of the nineteenth century resulted in a transformation of rural and urban areas. The construction of the Strong Residence in 1896 was in direct response to this transformation from a rural to an industrial state that is seen so evidently in the history and development of Plainfield. The construction of the railroad in 1837 and the subsequent modifications and improvements throughout the mid-nineteenth century helped to spur both industrial and residential growth, establishing Plainfield as a city in 1869. The City had become increasingly attractive to New York City businessmen and their families as a place to build their permanent residences. As a result of this new development, including the increased growth of its commercial center, Plainfield was called the Queen City of New Jersey. The construction of the George A. Strong Residence in the late-nineteenth century is in direct relation to the expansion of Plainfield as a modern suburb attracting the wealthy and middle class from urban centers, such as New York City.

The George A. Strong Residence is also significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Education for its association with the Country Day School movement. The Country Day School movement was part of the Progressive education movement of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Proponents of country day schools sought to offer the same high quality education and character-building atmosphere that college preparatory boarding schools offered, but while allowing the students to go home at the end of the day.<sup>26</sup> It was thought to be best for children to not be separated from their families and home life, as was the case for those who attended boarding schools. Proponents also believed in the health benefits of country living, so in order to avoid the ills of the industrial cities, these day schools were typically located in the "country" where wealthy families owned large homes. The movement advocated for a holistic learning environment and promoted "after-school" programs such as student organizations, athletic programs, and music programs. The Wardlaw School, with its roots as the Leal School, was one of several day schools founded in the region. The founder of the Leal School sought to provide high-quality private school education for boys in Plainfield, who previously had to travel to Elizabeth and other areas for this type of schooling. Charles Wardlaw continued this tradition of quality private schooling when he turned it into the Wardlaw School, which was known for its academic and athletic excellence. Other similar schools in the area included the Hartridge School for girls in Plainfield, founded in 1884 as the Misses Scribner and Newton's School for Girls (the Wardlaw School combined with Hartridge in 1975); the Pingry School for boys, founded in Elizabeth in 1861; and the Kent Place School for girls in Summit found in 1894.

<sup>25</sup> Scutro, 13.

<sup>26</sup> William Starr Myers, "Country Schools for City Boys," United States Bureau of Education, Bulletin No. 9 (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1912), 21.

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The Strong Residence is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level as it is a fine example of the Colonial Revival (or Georgian Revival) style, popular in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The Colonial Revival style buildings of the late-nineteenth century were not copies of colonial-era residences but were interpretations of such, reflecting the size and proportions demanded in residential construction at the time while using details with colonial precedent, such as columned porches and Palladian windows.<sup>27</sup> Symmetrical facades were prevalent with simpler and more rectangular forms, which differed from the Queen Anne residences employed at the height of the Industrial Revolution. Porches also became more prevalent than sweeping verandas, supported by columns employing unadorned Tuscan or Ionic detailing. Rooflines were simple, the number of materials employed on the exterior reduced, and doorways were emphasized by detailed surrounds and fanlights.<sup>28</sup> The Strong Residence employs many of the exterior features popular in Colonial Revival residences such as the central Palladian window, the emphasized entrance door with sidelights and fanlights, the front porch utilizing Ionic-detailed columns, and the use of a homogenous brick with the detailing called out primarily in wood. The same can be said of the interior with its center stair hall and sweeping staircase with "a newel post formed of a cluster of spindle balusters."<sup>29</sup> The detailing around fireplaces was also more subdued than found in Queen Anne residences. Each primary first floor room on the main level is fitted with simple wood wainscot topped by moulded wooden top rail or chair rail, ceiling cornices or beamed ceilings, and fireplace surrounds that reflect the period in their simplified detailing. The Strong Residence was described and illustrated in the July 1903 issue of *Scientific American Building Monthly* with the view of the house published on the front cover. The article notes its design excellence.

The house is a surviving example of a residence designed by architects Rossiter and Wright, an architectural firm based in New York that specialized in residential architecture. Rossiter and Wright were the architects for the South Orange Village Hall constructed in 1895, and the President's House at Vassar College in 1895. They were also the authors of *Authentic Color Schemes for Victorian Houses: Comstock's Modern House Painting 1883*, a pivotal book that presented color advice for late-nineteenth-century architecture. This was a pattern book meant to influence homeowners when constructing new houses or modifying existing ones, and to provide the homeowner and builder with various resources upon which to take on their own projects; the Rossiter and Wright book includes explanations on how to mix colors, as well as instructions in the preparation, use and application of paint and stain materials.

The Strong Residence retains a high degree of architectural integrity on its exterior and interior, particularly at its front and two side elevations. The building has been added to on numerous occasions since its change in use in 1933 from a private residence to private educational facilities. The additions made to the building, beginning with the first of four in 1933, are located to the rear of the main house, are simple in design and are therefore deferential to the original architecture. The additions, in general, reflect both the economics associated with school architecture and the popular architecture at the time for schools.

<sup>27</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990) 325-326.

<sup>28</sup> James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America: The Old-House Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes*, (New York: Penguin Group, 1996), 182-184.

<sup>29</sup> "A Residence at Plainfield, NJ", *Scientific American Builder's Monthly*, Vol. 213, (New York: Munn & Co. Publishers, July 1903).

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**Major Biographic References**

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Census Records

*Year: 1910; Census Place: Plainfield Ward 3, Union, New Jersey; Roll: T624\_910; Page: 27A; Enumeration District: 0096; Image: 961; FHL Number: 1374923. Internet. Available at Ancestry.com. Accessed in 2010.*

*Year 1930; Census Place: Plainfield, Union, New Jersey; Roll: 1388; Page: 10A; Enumeration District: 117; Image: 973.0. Internet. Available at Ancestry.com. Accessed in 2010.*



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**Geographical Data**

***VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION***

The boundaries correspond with those of Lot 2.01 of Block 744 in the City of Plainfield. See the included Site Diagram.

***BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION***

The selected boundaries demarcate the property that is historically associated with the George A. Strong Residence during its period of significance and is currently owned and occupied by the duCret School of Art. This boundary excludes the parcels that were subdivided from the property in 2004.

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**Name of Property:** George A. Strong Residence

**City or Vicinity:** City of Plainfield

**County:** Union **State:** New Jersey

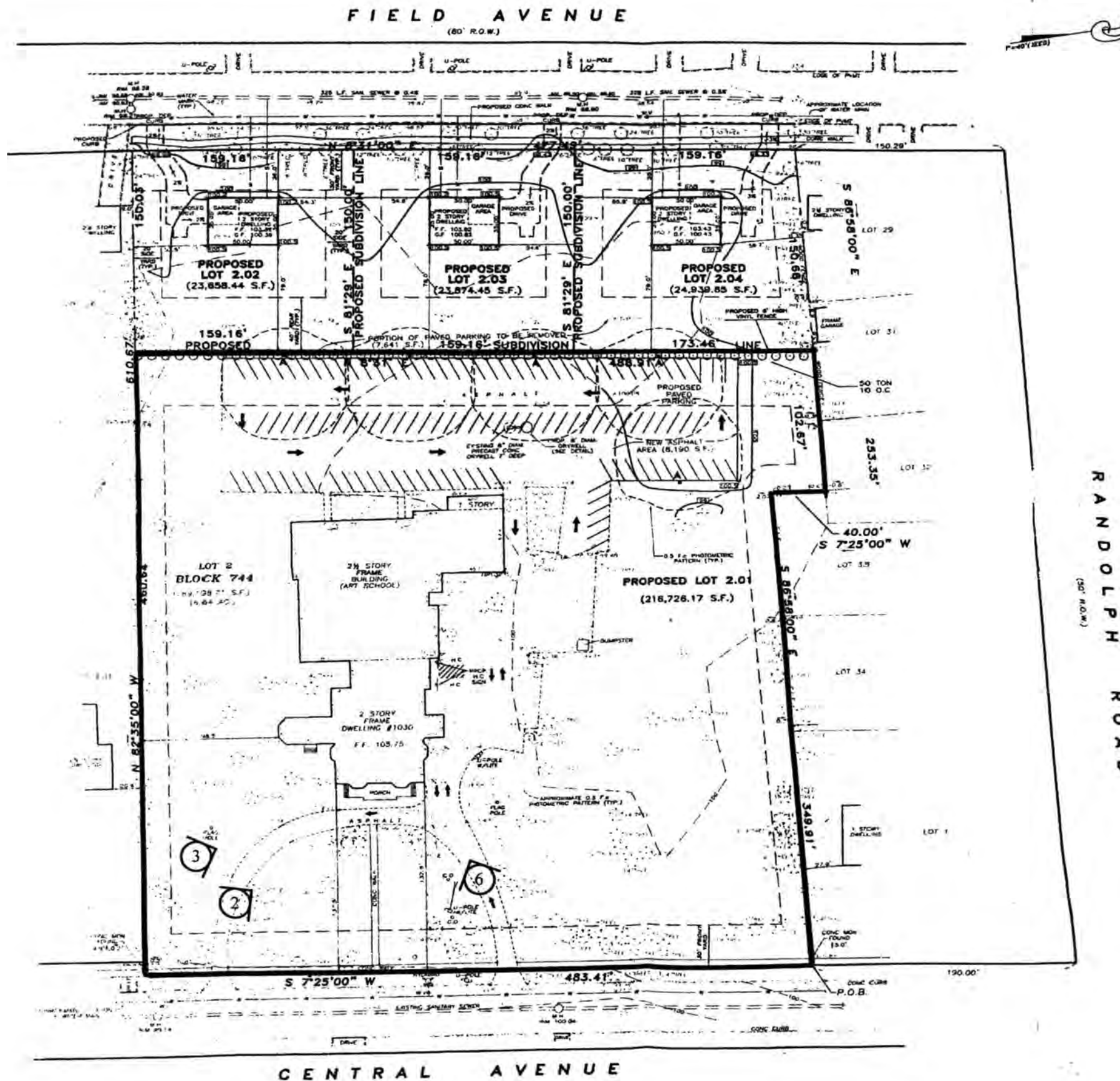
**Photographer:** Margaret Hickey

**Date Photographed:** March 2011

**Location of Original Digital Files:** 2 North Union Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 24: Exterior: View looking west at the front (east) elevation of the George A. Strong Residence.
- 2 of 24: Exterior: View looking northwest at the front (east) elevation.
- 3 of 24: Exterior: View looking northwest at the east and south elevations.
- 4 of 24: Exterior: View looking north at the south elevation.
- 5 of 24: Exterior: View looking northeast at the south and west elevations.
- 6 of 24: Exterior: View looking southwest at the east and north elevations.
- 7 of 24: Exterior: View looking southwest at east elevation and part of the north elevation.
- 8 of 24: Exterior: View looking south at north side of the front porch.
- 9 of 24: Exterior: View looking southwest at the north elevation and porte cochere.
- 10 of 24: Exterior: View looking west at the porte cochere.
- 11 of 24: Exterior: View looking south at the north elevation.
- 12 of 24: Exterior: View looking north at the south elevation of the School Building.
- 13 of 24: Exterior: View looking southwest at the north elevation of the Auditorium.
- 14 of 24: Exterior: View looking west at the east elevation of the former Carriage House.
- 15 of 24: Interior: View of the stair hall at the first floor looking east.
- 16 of 24: Interior: View of the stair hall looking west at the main stair.
- 17 of 24: Interior: View of the study looking south.
- 18 of 24: Interior: View of the fireplace within the study looking southwest.
- 19 of 24: Interior: View of the entrance from the stair hall to the sitting room looking northeast.
- 20 of 24: Interior: View of stair to third floor taken from second floor stair hall looking east.
- 21 of 24: Interior: View of southwest second floor studio looking southeast at fireplace and alcove.
- 22 of 24: Interior: View of former sleeping porch at second floor looking southwest.
- 23 of 24: Interior: View of the third floor studio looking south at the fireplace.
- 24 of 24: Interior: View of the basement looking south.



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PA RA403776  
MARGARET M. HICKEY, RA  
NJ 21A010244000

PROJECT No.: 0809H

DATE: MAY 20, 2011

REVISIONS:

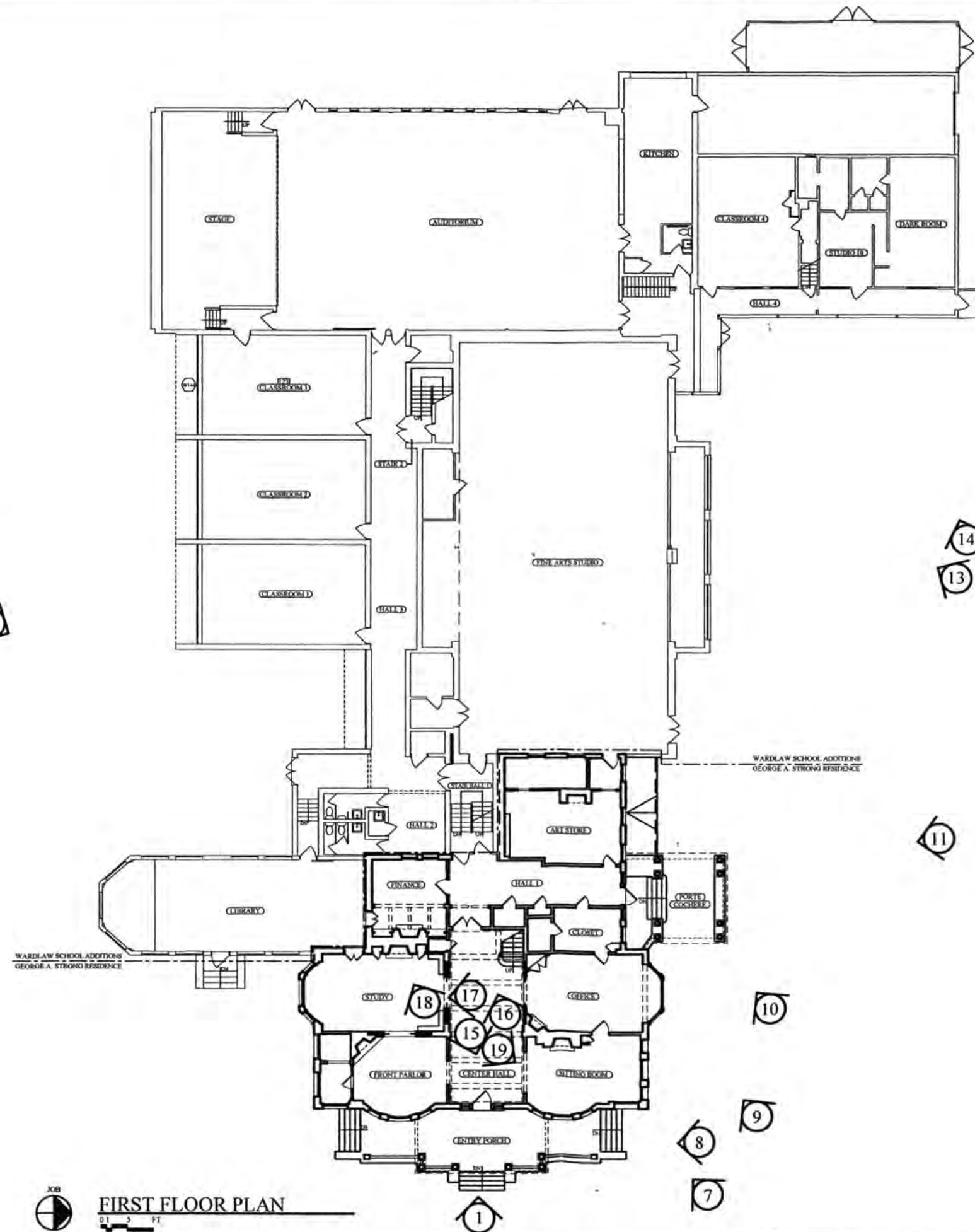
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NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION  
GEORGE A. STRONG RESIDENCE  
(duCRET SCHOOL OF ART)  
PLAINFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

P1







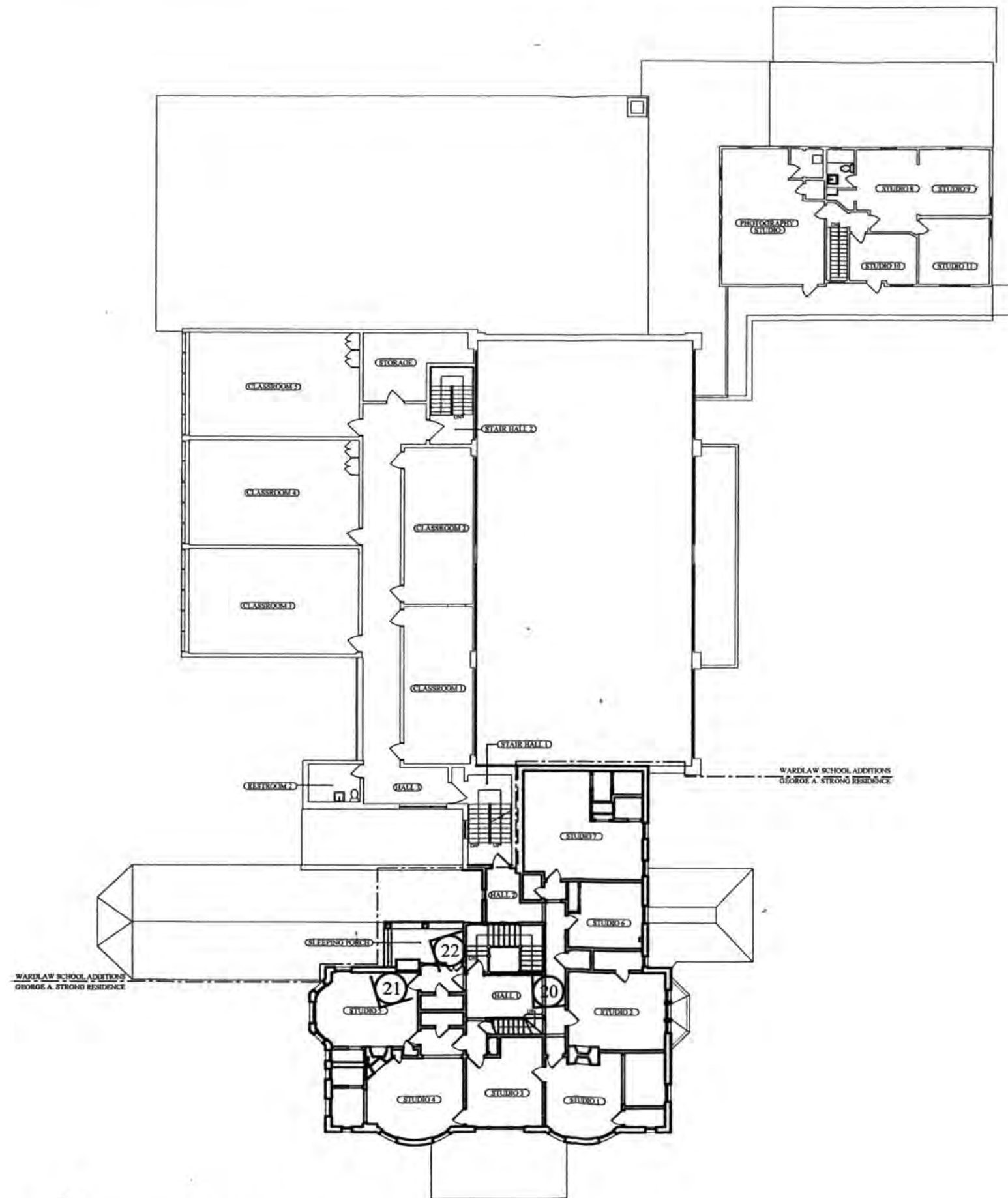
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PA RA403776  
MARGARET M. HICKEY, RA  
NJ 21A01424500  
PROJECT No.: 0809H  
DATE: MAY 30, 2011  
REVISIONS:

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GEORGE A. STRONG RESIDENCE  
(duCRET SCHOOL OF ART)  
PLAINFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

P3



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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FT



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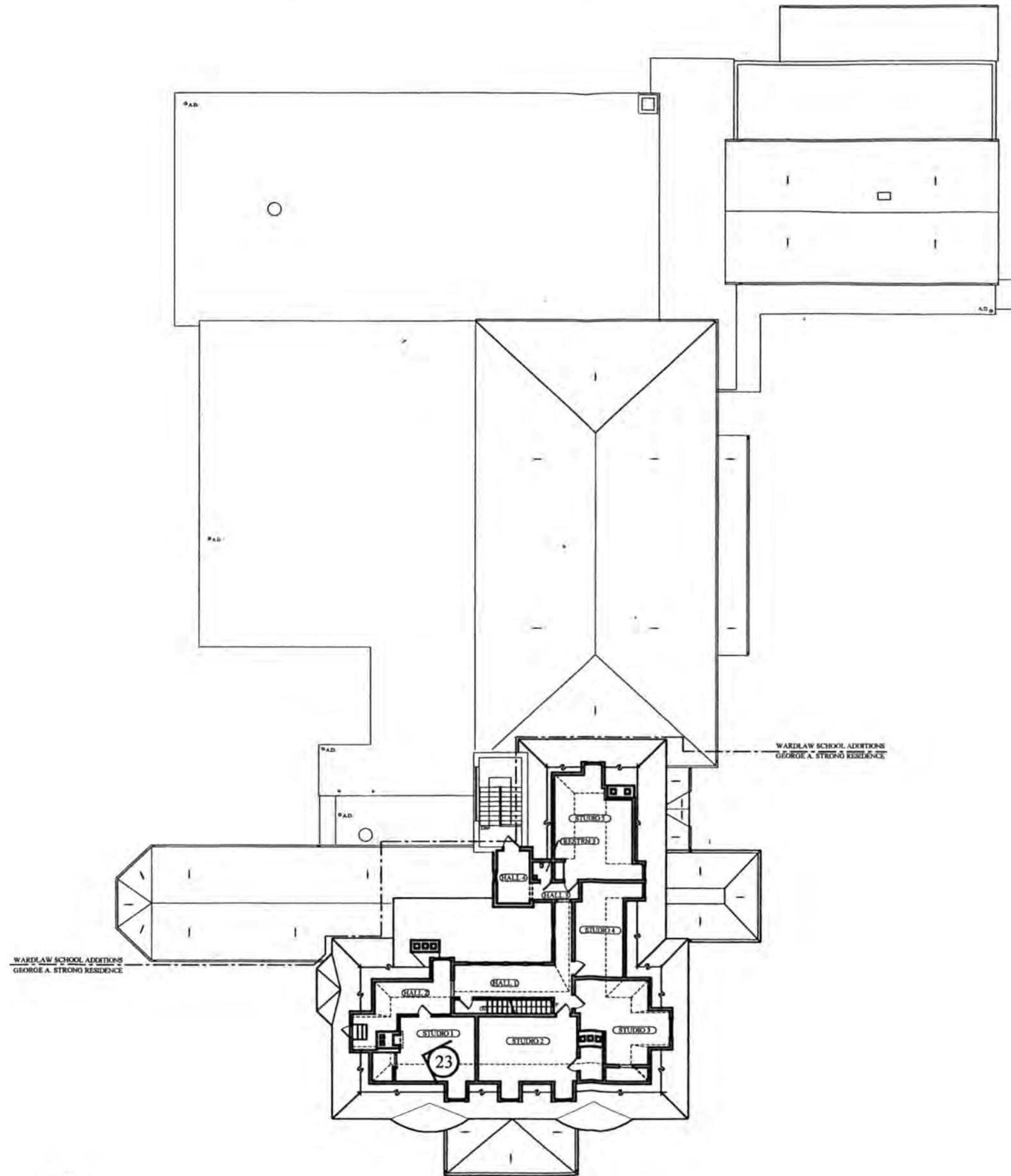
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NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION  
GEORGE A. STRONG RESIDENCE  
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PLAINFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

P4



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

0 1 5 10  
2 FT



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PA RA403776  
MARGARET M. HUCKEY, RA  
NJ 21A01824000

PROJECT No.: 08091

DATE: 1 FEBRUARY 2010

REVISIONS:

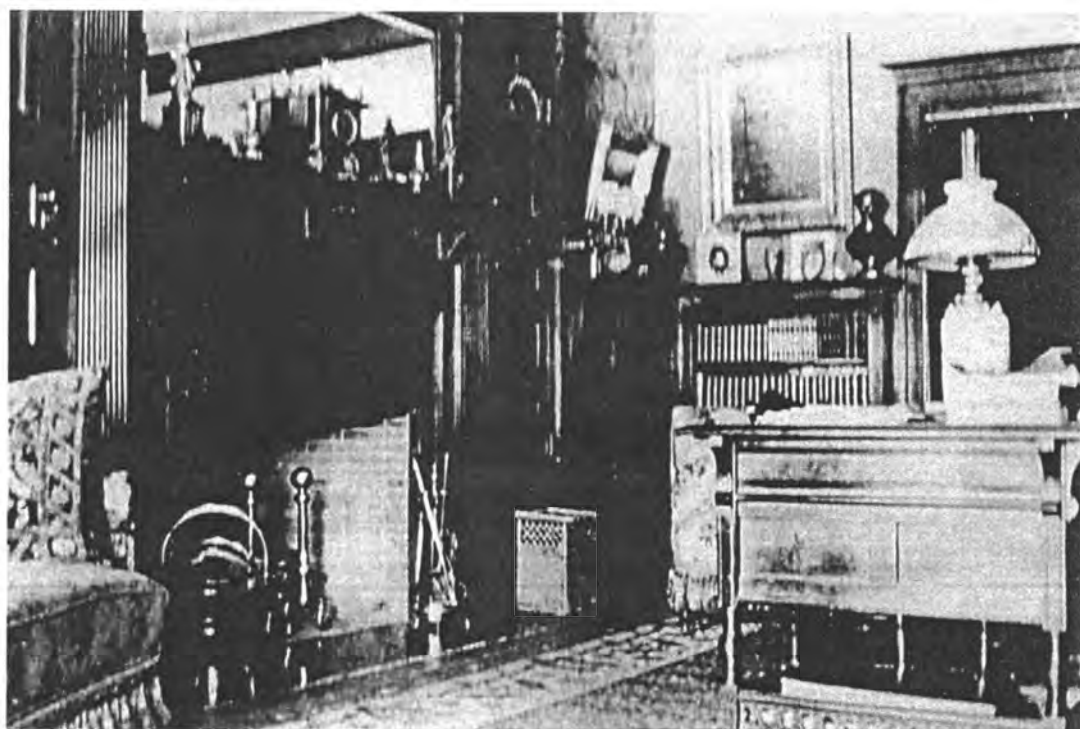
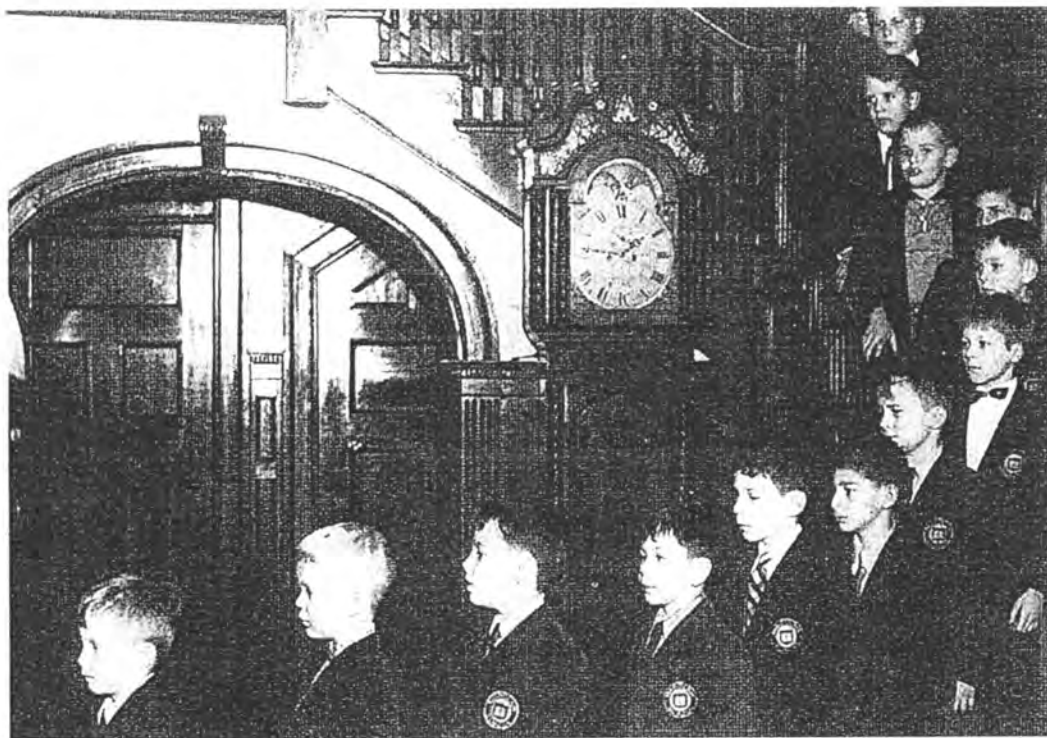
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN  
GEORGE A. STRONG RESIDENCE  
(duCRET SCHOOL OF ART)  
PLAINFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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NRIS Reference Number: 12000570

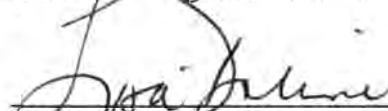
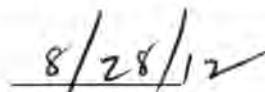
Date Listed: 8/28/12

Property Name: George A. Strong Residence

County: Union

State: NJ

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.

  
Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to amend the registration form to make corrections under Section 8.

The nomination was submitted under Criteria A and C with the area of significance of Community Planning and Development, Architecture, and Education.

**Section 8. Statement of Significance.** This nomination does not adequately address the significance of this residence under community planning and development. This property alone does not convey the extent of residential development of this Plainfield neighborhood. Therefore, Community Planning and Development is dropped as an area of significance.

The George A. Strong property is significant under Criteria A & C, at the local level, under the areas of significance of Education and Architecture.

The New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Strong, George A., House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Union

DATE RECEIVED: 7/13/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/10/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/27/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/29/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000570

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT 8/28/12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Architecture & education already significant*  
SLR

RECOM./CRITERIA Do C

REVIEWER John Deane

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE                     

DATE 8/28/12

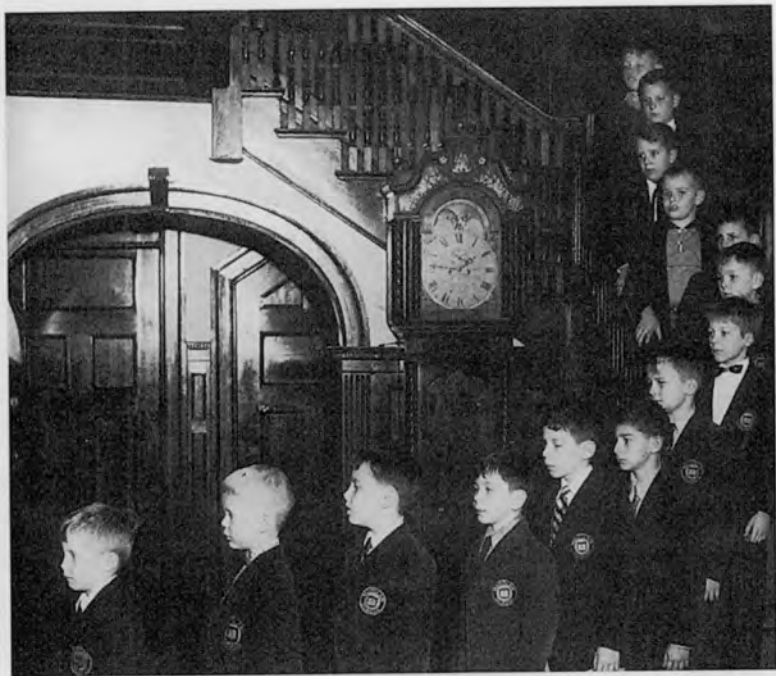
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.









*Assembling in the Center Hall*



























































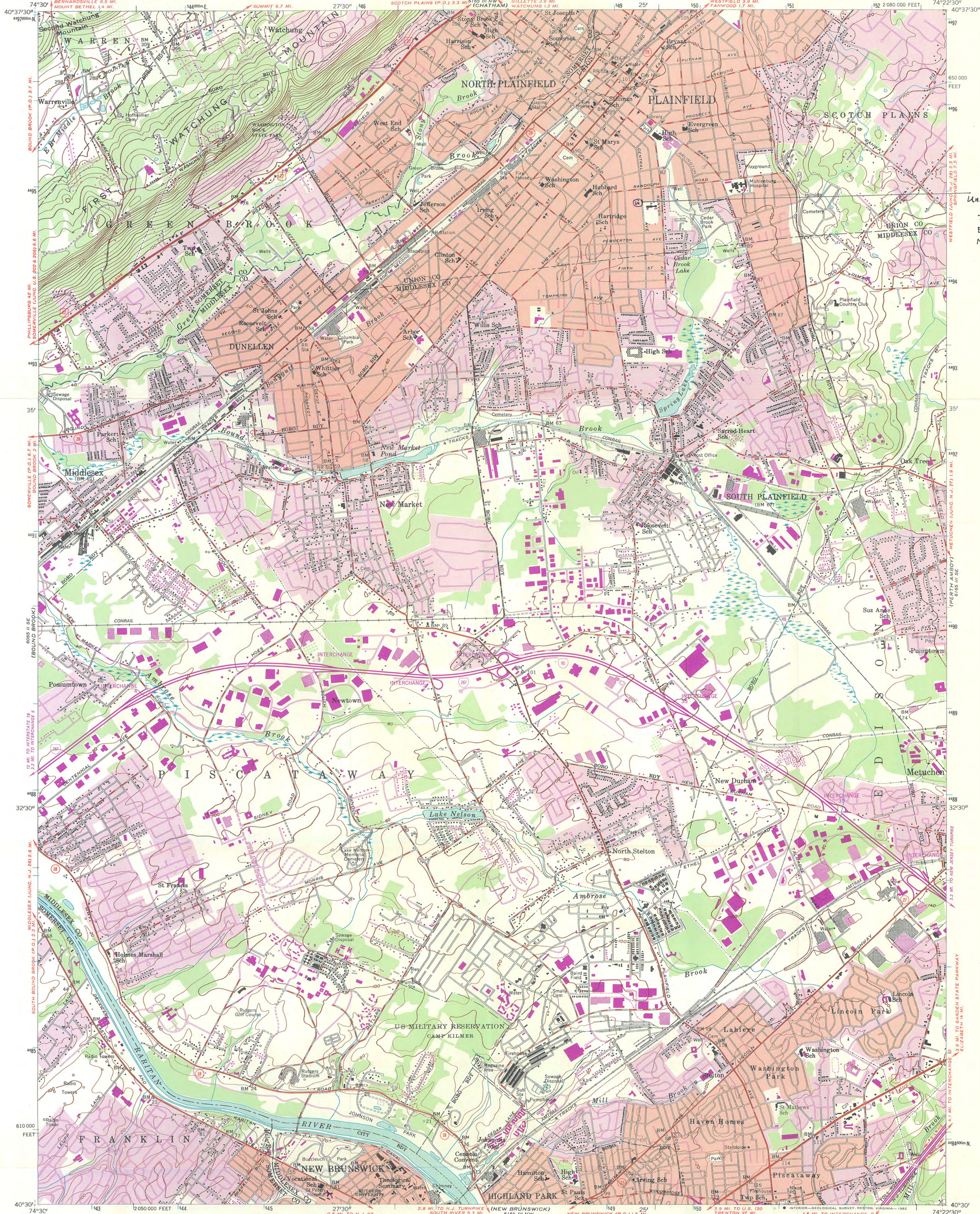






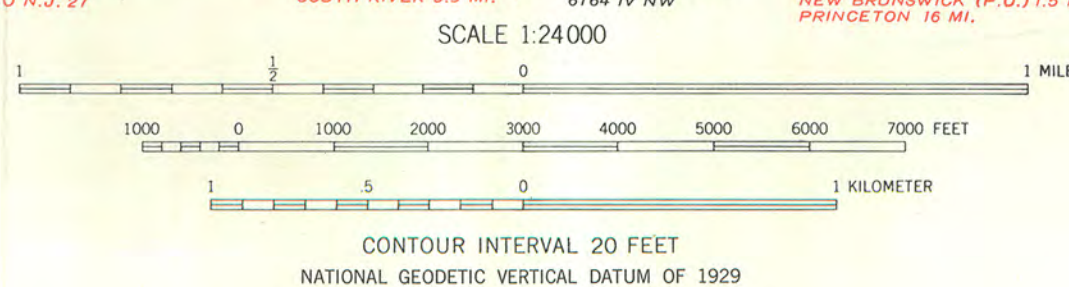
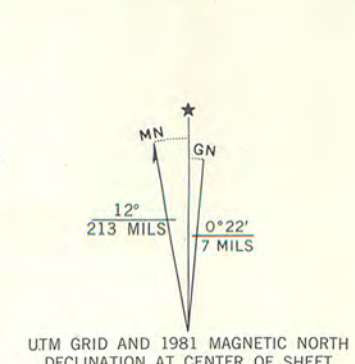






GEORGE A. STRONG  
Residence  
Union Co., NJ  
Z=18  
E=549310  
N=4495065

Mapped by the Defense Mapping Agency  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by NOS/NOAA and New Jersey Geodetic Survey  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1942 and 1943. Field checked 1943. Culture revised by the  
Geological Survey 1955  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on New Jersey  
coordinate system. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator  
grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 6 meters south and 34  
meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries  
of the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, light-duty road, all weather, hard surface  
Secondary highway, all weather, unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

PLAINFIELD, N. J.  
N 4030-W 7422.5/7.5  
1955  
PHOTOREVISED 1981  
DMA 6165 III SW-SERIES V822

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey  
from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other sources  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1981  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



**State of New Jersey****DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES**

Office of the Assistant Commissioner

MAIL CODE 501-03A

PO Box 420

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

609-292-3541/Fax: 609-984-0836

**BOB MARTIN**  
COMMISSIONER**CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
GOVERNOR**KIM GUADAGNO**  
Lt. Governor

June 27, 2012

Mr. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am pleased to submit the nomination for the George A. Strong Residence/Wardlaw School, City of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey, for National Register of Historic Places consideration.

This nomination received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with the regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420 or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Rich Bormazian  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer