National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Ear N	CBS us	- Anly		, aq\$
	CRS use	NOV	21	1984
		40.00		
date	entered		EC :	2 n

ype an entries complete applie			
1. Name			
istoric LINWOOD BOROUG	H SCHOOL NO. 1		
nd/or common LINWOOD PUBLI	C LIBRARY		
. Location			
reet & number 16 WEST POPL	AR AVENUE	N/	A not for publication
ty, town LINWOOD	N/A vicinity of	congressional district	
ate NEW JERSEY	code 034 count	ATLANTIC	code ool
. Classification			
ategory district X_ public building(s) structure site object in process being conside	$X_{}$ yes: restricted	entertainment government	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
. Owner of Pro	perty		
me CITY OF LINWOOI)		
eet & number 16 WEST	POPLAR AVENUE		
y, town LINWOOD	N/A vicinity of	state	NEW JERSEY 08221
. Location of L		ion	
			T. DEEDG
MATN COD	ATLANTIC COUNTY CLERK	5 OFFICE, REGISTRY O	F DEEDS
eet a number	PEI		
y, town MAYS LANDING		state	NEW JERSEY
. Representati	on in Existing	Surveys	
ATLANTIC COUNTY CULT SURVEY, NJHSI (uncom		property been determined elig	gible?yes _X_r
A		federal etate	e X county loc
*1	was advised by Mr. Buc	ld Wilson, on above da	
pository for survey records wo	uld be recorded on sur	evey indicated above.	
ty, town RD#2, Box 164, Eg	g Harbor	state	NJ 08215

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X_ original site
good *-	ruins	_X_ altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Built during the third quarter of the 19th Century, Leedsville School #1, District #19, (later Linwood Borough School #1) is located in a residential setting on the southwest corner of Poplar and Lincoln Avenues in the City of Linwood, New Jersey. On the southern and eastern sides, the grounds contain large shade trees of oak and maple. It is a rather simple one and one-half story, rectangular, wood frame structure reflecting that general style known as Vernacular Victorian. As a result of its continuous use in the community during the past century, it has been carefully maintained and is structurally sound and essentially pristine.

Fenestration consists of two double hung, six over six, shuttered windows on the south wall; three double hung, six over six windows on the west wall, three on the north, and two on the east; each measures 8'-8" x 3'-4". Old photographs show the east wall had three windows, but during the period 1912 to 1965 when the building was used as City Hall, the center window was removed for an interior partition. In the half-story above the ceiling, there are two small casement windows on both the east and west walls.

The entrance to the building is on the longitudinal south facade, fronting on Poplar Avenue. The two 4-paneled main doors, $2'-6'' \times 6'-8''$ are protected by a one-story porch, $6'-1-3/4'' \times 18'-9-1/2''$ which rises by two steps from ground level. The porch roof extends from two pilasters which exceed the naked wall by 3/4'' on either side of the doors, and is supported by four square pillars with square capitals. The porch roofline is distinguished by carpenter-Gothic Gingerbread which ties each of the pillars to the soffit.

The roof is a steeply pitched A-gable with soffit return. The roof rafters taper steeply up to the ridge; they are overlaid with 1" x 2-5/8" firring strips, 7" on center, to which hand split cedar shingles are fastened. There exists three independent trusses spaced back from the roof rafters at third points above the floor plan. Approximate size is 7" square. The trusses are braced laterally with diagonal supports at center points of the two end trusses and at end points of the center truss. There are four 4" x 6" vertical supports, one on each diagonal support. The members were originally used to support the cupola which has been removed.

The 20' x 48' building is placed on 6-3/4" x 7-1/4" wood sills set on a four-course brick foundation with flat joint pointing. The bricks are marked as "S.B. Co.", which was the mark of the Somers Point Brick Company operating, circa 1870 to 1920, in the neighboring community of Bakersfield, now Northfield.

Common floor joists, 17" on center, 3-3/4" x 10", run with no strutting from the outside sills to the center of the structure; they are rough cut and the circular saw pattern is clearly visible. The joists rest upon center timbers, 6-3/4" x 7-1/4", which run the 48' length of the building; they are supported at

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

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

BOROUGH, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NJ Item number Continuation sheet

For NPS use only

Page 1

Description (continued)

8' intervals by concrete block which, during a successful effort to level and strengthen the entire floor, was installed recently to replace the original 2-1/2' x 2-1/2' brick piers.

The oldest known photographs of the building show the exterior to be clapboard; indeed, in the small covered entrance on the north side of the building leading to a below ground heater room and crawl space, the clapboard is The Board of Education Minutes indicate that in 1906 the schoolhouse was shingled over with hand split cedar shingles 7" to the weather at a cost of \$160. A brick chimney, 10'' x 10'', is located 5' from the aforementioned heater room; it carries the flue for the present heating system. The building was originally heated by means of two iron stoves on the east and west interior walls. Bills in the District Clerk's files indicate that circa 1895, the fuel utilized was coal. Old photographs show chimneys on the east and west interior walls, the holes for the stove flues are evident, covered with simple circular flue covers. In 1904, a bid by Mark Sanders of \$100 was accepted by the Board of Education for the purpose of placing a "Hot Air Heater in the Cellar." In May 1905, the two iron stoves were advertised for sale in the "Pleasantville Press."

The front doors open into a vestibule which was originally the children's A lavatory (replacing the outdoor "privies" at some time long past), measuring 4'-2" x 5'-2", is built into the left hand side of the space. The rest of the vestibule area, 4'-2" x 14', is utilized for hanging outerwear and for storage cabinets. An electrified gas lamp hangs from the ceiling in the center of the vestibule.

Originally, there was a belfry centered on the ridge; it was hexagonal with a wooden railing. Unfortunately, for reasons unknown, it was removed in 1934 and the bell was given to the South Seaville Camp Meeting Association; the group still retains it but negotiations are underway through the auspices of the Linwood Historical Society to have it returned. Older citizens who attended the school in the building indicate that the bell was rung from the classroom by means of a rope which extended down through the ceiling.

An inner vestibule door opens on the interior of the former one-room school. It presently houses the Linwood City Public Library. A charge desk, shelving and reading tables are arranged in as practical a manner as possible in terms α^{ϵ} giving service to patrons and maintaining a pleasant library environment. The flooring is 2-1/2" tongue and groove oak. One of the original blackhoards is still mounted on the south wall; another on the west wall. They measure $10^{1-6.5}$

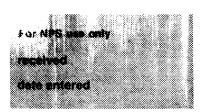
United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Linwood School #1, Linwood Borough, Atlantic County, NJ Item number

Continuation sheet

7



2 Page

Description (continued)

3'-3'' and $4'-6'' \times 3'-3''$, respectively. All of the vestibule and much of the classroom interior have original dwarf wainscoting constructed of random width vertical planking, 3' x 5" and 3' x 7". The ceiling is 5" tongue and groove planking which runs the length of the interior.

The interior walls of the schoolhouse are smooth finished plaster over wood plaster lath from wainscoting to ceiling; the thickness of the scratch and finish coat is approximately 1-1/2".

Facing on Lincoln Avenue and 6 feet behind the schoolhouse, there is a small, hip-roofed building, 16' x 20'-4", which is used as a work and storage area for the library. It was built circa 1920 as a small service station about 1/4-mile south of Poplar Avenue on Shore Road. It was moved to its present location in the 1940's and served as the Police Station for the City of Linwood until 1965 when their quarters were moved into the new City Hall.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics X education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature milltary music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation _ other (specify)
Specific dates	1873 to present	Builder/Architect	(Unknown)	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Leedsville schoolhouse is probably the best preserved 19th Century, one-room school in Atlantic County and features an interior and exterior which are in excellent condition. It illustrates quite clearly the pragmatic and simple design established for schoolhouses of the late 19th Century.

Used as an elementary school from 1873 to 1908, this school played an important role in the education and maturation of youngsters in the district. The building also had an equally important function as a meeting place for various social activities. When the Leedsville School closed in 1908, the building continued its public service as the municipal hall until 1965.

ELABORATION

The community in which the schoolhouse is located was called Leedsville until 1880 when the United States Post Office Department required the village to change its name: Linwood was decided upon by the voters.

There is evidence that the first school in Leedsville, circa 1800, was a log Quaker Meeting House located at the northern end of the community at the juncture of Shore Road and Central Avenue. In 1843, Leedsville's schoolhouse was located approximately three blocks south of the building in question. It was known as Leeds Ville Academy; and there are several textbooks extant with that identifying notation written on the title pages. Classes were held there until 1873 when, by deed dated November 11, 1873, (Book of Deeds 46, pp. 240-41, Mays Landing) Captain John D. Sanders and his wife, Abigail, transferred to the Board of Trustees of School District #19, "one acre more or less" on the road "leading from Shore Road to bridge over Patconk (sic) Creek." Since the minutes of the Board of Trustees of that period have not been found, the exact date of construction is unknown but the year of construction is verifiable from other reliable records.

The School Register for 1873 indicates that John Walker Tilton, a well-known local sea captain was the District Clerk of the Board of Trustees. In that capacity, his signature appears on a insurance policy from the Millville Mutual Marine and Fire Insurance Company, dated December 2, 1873. That policy insures the new building "situated on the North East side of road from Winner's Landing to Patconk Creek perhaps 20 rods distant from the shore road from Somers Point to Absecon adjoining the Village of Leeds Ville in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED

10. G	eograph	ical Data			
Acreage of no Quadrangle n		1.01 acres ty Quadrangle		Quadrangle so	1:24000
		4 3 5 5 8 0 Northing	B	asting No	rthing
,C	<u> </u>		D		
At the SW bridge over th N. 61 W	corner, Jose er Patconk Cr W. in the line		aker's line N. 3 ed the Parsonage	4 E. 3 chains 1 2 lot 3 chains 1	e Shore Road to 7 links to a stake 7 links to a stake (see attached)
state	N/A	code	county		code
state		code	county		code
name/title		RK/CITY HISTORIAN	<u> </u>	TERSEY 11/23/83	
street & numb	er 14	05 FRANKLIN BLVD.	telep	hone 609–9	27-2239
city or town	LINWOOD		state	NEW JERSE	Y 08221
12. St	ate His	toric Prese	rvation O	fficer Cer	tification
The evaluated	significance of th	is property within the s	late is:		
665), I hereby according to the	ated State Historic	: Preservation Officer for perty for inclusion in the cedures set forth by the	or the National Historic e National Register an	d certify that it has be	en evaluated
Deputy State Historic	Preservation Office	er signature	Russe	el w. Has	S
title Dire	ector, Divisio	on of Parks & For	estry	date Nov	ember 1,1954
LA	Court by	roperty is included in the	Mational Registers Interest House National Regist	date //	2-20-84
Keeper of t Attest:	the National Regi	ster		date	
Chief of Re	aistration				

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Linwood School #1, Linwood

Continuation sheet Borough, Atlantic County, NJ Item number



Page :

Significance (continued)

County, New Jersey." There is no question, therefore, that the construction of the schoolhouse in question occurred during 1873.

The County School System of New Jersey was organized in 1866. Egg Harbor Township, of which Leedsville was a part, was divided into 48 School Districts; this was carried out to provide equitable disbursements of School Tax moneys to the various districts. The village of Leedsville fell into two of the Township Districts: The Leedsville School District #19 included all households within the areas bounded by what is now Central Avenue in the north and by Belhaven Avenue in the south; and the Somers Point District #20 included those households situated from Belhaven Avenue to Ocean Heights Avenue in the south.

According to the Minutes of the Trustees of the Seaview School District, a one-room schoolhouse was built in 1887. It replaced the former school located on an adjoining lot. In 1873, therefore, there were two schools in Leedsville, each in a different district and each with its own District Clerk and Board of Trustees.

The School Registers reveal that School #1, District #19, (the building in question) operated as an ungraded one-room school from 1873 to 1894. During that period. 65 to 70 students aged 5 through 18 were taught by a single teacher. In 1894, the Board of Education of Linwood Borough was organized, assuming jurisdiction and responsibility for both schools. The School Registers for 1895 indicated that the school was divided into two classes: Primary, and Upper Grammar and High School. It must have been at this time that a partition was placed across the width of the building in such a way that divided the interior into two separate classrooms. Older citizens who attended school there describe a paneled partition with a door just inside the "cloak room" door which gave entrance to the Primary Room on the left. They describe, too, florentine glass extending from the wainscoting in the parition toward the ceiling for a In 1895, 2 teachers, a principal and an Assistant were considerable distance. employed to handle 53 Primary students, aged 5 to 13, and 32 Upper Grammar and High School students, aged 10 to 18, respectively. That same year, the Seaview School had 43 students, 5 to 18 years of age, in a single ungraded classroom.

During the early 1900's, the Board Minutes address with some regularity the problems of growth in the community and the deterioration of the Seaview School. In fact, in 1906 a resolution was passed requesting the County Superintendent to condemn School #2. At that time, the population of the two Linwood Borough schools exceeded 126 scholars and the Board presented a resolution to the voters of the community for the purpose of building a new school at a "probable cost of

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

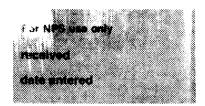
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Linwood School #1, Linwood
Borough Atlantia County Ni

Continuation sheet Borough, Atlantic County, NJ

Item number

8



Page 2

Significance (continued)

\$8,000." It was turned down by a vote of 27 to 10, primarily because there was strong disagreement on the chosen location; it was not considered central enough for the households in the northern part of the community. A year later, however, on January 15, 1907, the voters approved the purchase of a lot 150' x 150' close to the geographical center of Linwood for \$600. Further, they authorized the Board of Education "to erect a schoolhouse and purchase furniture and other necessary equipment" at a cost "not to exceed \$12,000." Lear and Corson, local building contractors, received the contract in 1908 for the sum of \$10,883. Construction was evidently rapid for according to a letter in the files of the District Clerk, the students were transferred to the new building in the "middle of September, 1908." They were separated into four levels, grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8.

Two years later on March 15, 1910, the voters of the Borough of Linwood approved two questions relating to the former one-room schools: the sale of the Seaview Schoolhouse to "use the proceeds for current expenses" and the sale of School #1 (the building in question) to the "Borough of Linwood, for One Dollar, to be used for Borough purposes."

By 1912, the building had become Linwood Borough Hall and it was utilized for that purpose until 1965 when a new City Hall was constructed. Several years later at the behest of a number of interested citizens, the building was refurbished and it became the City Library. It is still being used for that purpose.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

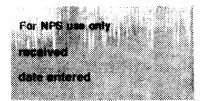
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Linwood School #1, Linwood

Continuation sheet Borough, Atlantic County, NJ

Item number

9



Page

1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRINTED SOURCES

- Hall, John F. The Daily Union History of Atlantic City and Atlantic County.

 Atlantic City: Daily Union Printing Company, 1900.
- LeHardy, William, FSA. The Family of Scull. Philadelphia: J.C. Winston, N.D. (circa 1900)

ORIGINAL SOURCES

1893.	"Apportionment of School Funds for the County of Atlantic." (Pamphlet)
	Book of Deeds, Book 46, pp. 240-241, John B. Sanders et ux to Trustees of Chool District #19, November 4, 1873. Office of County Clerk, Mays Landing, N.J.
	Book of Deeds, Book 436, pp. 231-234, Board of Education of Borough of inwood to Borough of Linwood, June 15, 1910. Office of the County Clerk, lays Landing, NJ.
L	Broadside, Resolution to erect schoolhouse in Linwood, 1907, Archives of inwood Historical Society, Linwood, N.J.
В	Broadside Resolution regarding sale of School #1 and School #2, Linwood orough, 1910, Archives of Linwood Historical Society, Linwood, NJ.
	Minet (sic) Book, District #20, SeaView School District, 1887-1894.
1	Minutes of the Board of Education, School District #19, Linwood, N.J. 893-1912.

Morse, S.R., Atlantic County Superintendent. "Boundaries of the School Districts in Atlantic County, N.J. 1886." Archives of Linwood Historical Society, Linwood, N.J.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Linwood School #1, Linwood

Continuation sheet Borough, Atlantic County, NJ Item number

received
date entered DEC 2.0

Page 2

9

Insurance Policy, Millville Mutual Marine and Fire Insurance Company to Trustees of School District #19, Leeds Ville, New Jersey, December 2, 1873. Archives of Linwood Historical Society, Linwood, N.J.

Oral History Tapes: Former students of School #1, District #19; Walter B. VanSant (1980), Marie C. Gandy (1980), Mulford Potter (1983), Anna May Potter (1983). Archives of Linwood Historical Society, Linwood, N.J.

School Registers, Leedsville School District #19, 1870-1882, Linwood Board of Education Office, Belhaven Avenue School, Linwood, NJ.

School Registers, Leedsville School District #19 and #20, Schools #1 and #2, 1883-1905, Linwood Board of Education Office, Belhaven Avenue School, Linwood, N.J.

MAPS

Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1872, Map of Atlantic County. Archives of Linwood Historical Society, Linwood, N.J.

Tax Map, City of Linwood, City Clerk's Office, Linwood, N.J.

Plat of Right of Way, West Jersey and Sea Shore Railroad, to Schoolhouse #2, 1896. Archives of Linwood Historical Society, Linwood, N.J.

HOMINATION FOR I

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

LINWOOD BOROUGH SCHOOL NO. 1

There is some mystery surrounding the exact reasons why the cupola was removed from the roof of the Linwood (Leedsville) Borough School #1. The council members and the individual who actually tore it down have passed away. There is no evidence in the roof interior of deteriorated timbers or leaking. The City Historian's search of Council Minutes produced no references to the project; he did, however, find in some related records a single letter (Appendix A) from the South Jersey Camp Meeting Association (in Cape May County!) thanking the members of Council for their gift of the old school bell. It is known that a number of prominent Linwood residents were (and still are) members of that group. An inquiry to the Association revealed that the bell was presently hanging from a small tower on the Camp Grounds and was used each summer to signal the beginning of various activities.

Once the location was known, the newly organized Linwood Historical Society established as a major goal the restoration of both the cupola and the bell. The group contacted the Camp Meeting Association which, after some negotiations, agreed to return the bell if the Society would provide and install a suitable replacement.

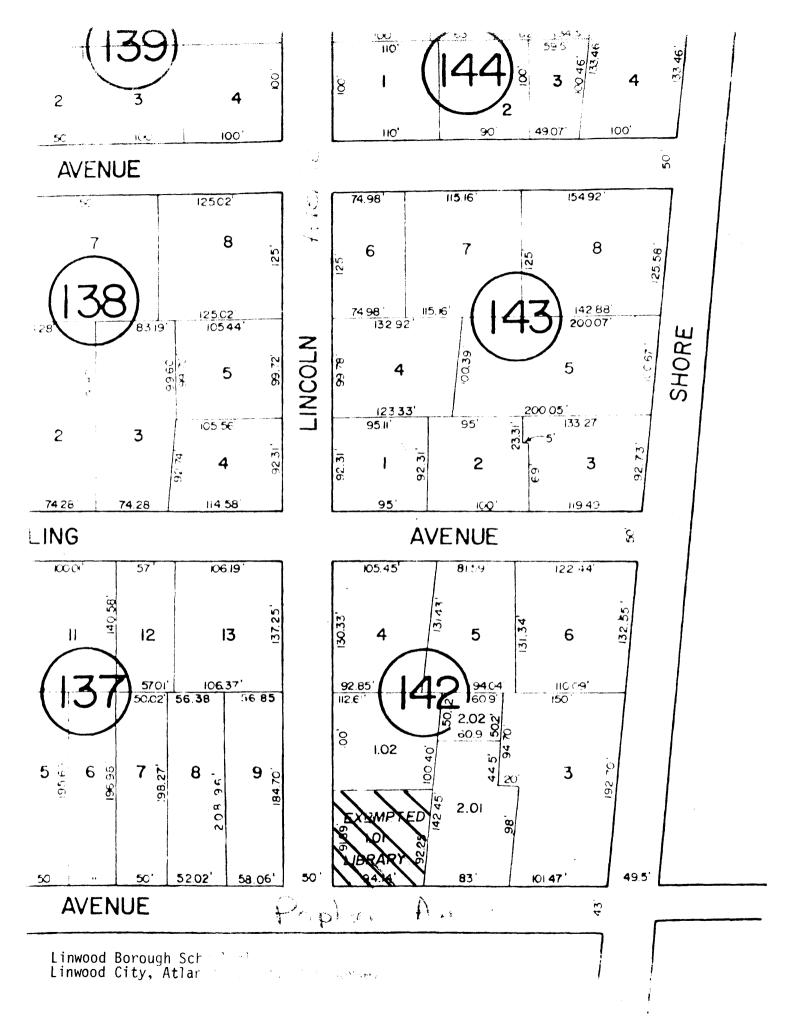
The bell, 20" in diameter with a 27" yoke, is marked "Meneely, 1873." The Meneely Bell Foundry was established by Andrew M. Meneely in 1826 in West Troy, New York. Upon his death in 1851, the business was carried on by two of his sons, Edwin and George. Another son, Clinton, upon his return from military service in the Civil War, established his own foundry (Meneely & Kimberly) in Watervliet, New York. When the bell can be examined more closely on the ground, it may be possible to determine which of the two foundries produced it.

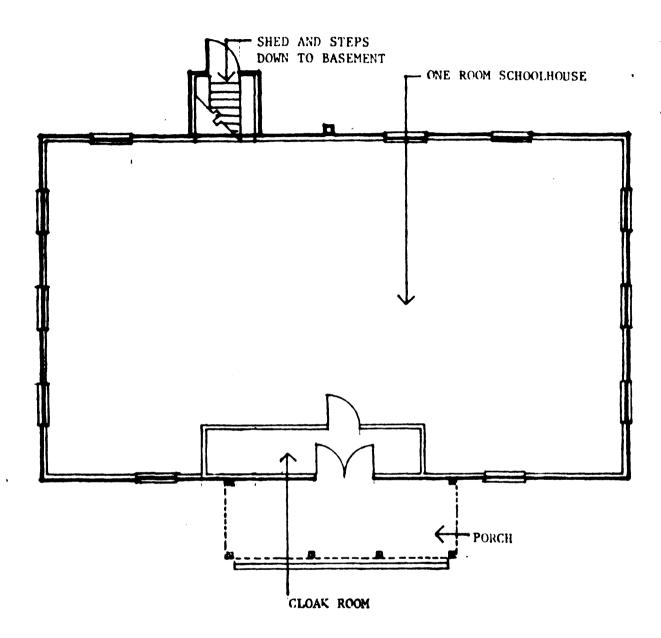
It has been further determined that when the bell and cupola were removed in 1939, all six of the 4" X 6" supporting timbers were left in place. They have been carefully examined and are perfectly sound. Their placement clearly delineates the specific shape and dimensions of the old structure. This, together with old photographs, have provided Stephen Morrill, an architect from Bolles Associates, with enough data to develop working plans for restoration (Appendix B).

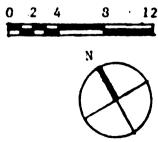
The Society has developed plans for a fund drive to begin this fall (Appendix C). The money will be used to cover the restoration of the cupola and to replace the bell.

In a related move, Linwood City Council is developing plans to renovate a recently closed school built in 1927 for the purpose of expanding the Library facilities (presently in the property in question) and moving it to the new quarters. When that occurs, the Linwood Historical Society will take over the old school for its headquarters.

James B. K. G. City Histo August 16, 1984







LINWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY | Sail Linwood, New Jersey

1 11/34

School #1 School District #19 trowood, Sow Bersey