

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 7 1985

date entered

MAR 7 1985

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

1. Name

historic ✓ The Union School

and/or common ~~THE GREEN STREET SCHOOL~~ (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 104 Green Street n/a not for publication

city, town Somersworth n/a vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Strafford 03878 code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Apartments

4. Owner of Property

name Gavin Ruotolo

street & number P.O. Box 310

city, town Scarborough, n/a vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Strafford County Registry of Deeds

street & number Strafford County Courthouse
County Farm Road

city, town Dover, state New Hampshire 03820

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Request for Determination of Eligibility
title Green St. School, Somersworth, NH has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

city, town Department of Interior
Washington, state D.C. 20240

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Green Street School is a monumentally proportioned; pressed brick and granite vernacular, Queen Anne period, Colonial Revival structure sited on the crest of a hill in the St. Martin's Parish neighborhood of the small, mill city of Somersworth, New Hampshire. It was constructed in 1890-91 as the Union Schoolhouse to serve as an elementary school for the rapidly expanding Third District. It was at that time and continues to be the largest and finest example of civic architecture in the city. Additionally, because of its monumentality and prominent siting on the hill, the Green School School is a major visual anchor in the cityscape of Somersworth.

The Green Street School achieves its monumentality through simplicity and symmetry, as well as its use of materials, and grand, overscale proportions. Its style is eclectic, combining Colonial Revival symmetry and massing with Queen Anne period scale and use of materials. Its plan is rectangular. The east and west elevations, on the short sides of the rectangle, are treated identically and serve as primary entrances; the north and south elevations on the long sides of the rectangle are also symmetrical and each features a gable-roofed pavillion to house the twin, interior stair towers.

Because of the building's hilltop location, the east elevation is taller than the west one. The full-story basement is fully exposed on this side, then tapers gradually westward with the slope of the hill until it is no longer evident on the west elevation. Ornament is confined to the two main entries, which feature recessed entries highlighted by a Colonial Revival brick arch with a granite keystone and impost blocks; windows which feature rock-faced granite sills and lintels; and the cornice, which, while of corbeled brick in the Queen Anne style, seems to be emulating Colonial Revival dentils.

The building's 2-story height is deceptive as each story is overscaled. The feeling of great height is increased by the steeply-pitched, massive hipped roof, which is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Small skylights have been installed to accomodate newly-created living space under the roof. The slope of the roof emphasizes the cluster of four massive rectangular, pressed brick chimnies, with tapering tops to accent their height. These pierce the north and south roof-slopes. The scale, materials and placement of these chimnies echo the body of the building again above the mass of the roof. Their inspiration is found in the mill worker housing, elsewhere in the city.

The east elevation, on the Union Street side, is the tallest. Because it faces downhill to the city, it will be considered as the facade. This elevation appears to be 3-stories tall because of the exposed basement and is eight bays across, identified by the 3, 2, 3 bay pattern on the second story. The arched, recessed center entry takes up the two center bays flanked by the three window bays of the exposed basement and first story. Its height extends to midway in the first story and it is approached by one step. Inside the entry, the walls are sheathed with match board (vee board). The painted metal door features a full length, single pane, glass panel flanked by

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full-length, single pane sidelights. The original window sash was removed by the city and has been replaced by 1/1 sash with a filled-in, wooden transom panel. Four patterned, metal grills cover ventilators which are located on the top of the first and second stories flanking the center bays.

The west elevation, on the Green Street side, is identical to the east elevation, except in height. The center entry here is approached by four steps rather than one and is somewhat shorter. The keystone of its semi-circular arch falls just above the lintel-line of the first story windows and is shorter than the arch on the east entry. All other features are exactly the same.

The south elevation, on the School Street side, is symmetrical, 2½-stories high with exposed basement; and twelve bays long in a 4, 4, 4 pattern. The only exception is an arched doorway for fire egress in the first section of the basement, which also has a granite keystone. A gabel roofed pavillion projects four inches to form the center four bays. Its roof peak is subsidiary to that of the main structure extending to meet the slope of the roof about midway. The pavillion, which houses the stair tower, features the tallest wall surface in the structure, with four full bays in the basement, a first story, a second story, and a large, arched, lunette window with granite keystone and granite sill in the gable. The original sash in this window consists of three, 6-light vertical sections. The fenestration of the pavillion varies inventively to emphasize its separation from the main block. The basement fenestration exactly continues the lintel and sill lines from the other bays and elevations, but the first and second stories are different. On the first story the sill line of the four windows is even with the sill line of the other bays and elevations, but the lintel line is not. The lintels are stepped in a 1, 2, 1 pattern 2/3 and ½ window height. This pattern is echoed in the third story but varied. Here the lintel height is regular but stepped down 1/3 below the height of all other bays. The sill line however mimics the 1, 2, 1 pattern in reverse. The outer two bays being 2/3 regular height, flanking two full-length bays whose sills drop below the sill line in a 1/3 proportion. These two bays are also distinguished by massive granite blocks which are larger and project further than other granite details. They are located in 1/3 of the height of the window below the lintel and have no parallel course in the building. These blocks punctuate the fenestration and emphasize the pavillion. This unusual fenestration treatment seems to have been inspired by the Palladian Window motife, popular on Colonial Revival buildings, but abstracted somewhat because of the Queen Anne influence of the period.

The north elevation is identical to the south elevation except that there is no arched doorway in the basement, due to a rock outcropping which was left to landscape the hill.

The site is a rectangular plot of land bounded by streets on three sides; east by Union Street, south by School Street, west by Green Street, and on the north side the property line abuts a residence and school playground. The property slopes upward from east to west. There is a granite rubble retaining wall on the south side of the lot whose

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height is 3' at the east, diminishing 0' in the west. There are asphalt parking lots to serve the new residential use, which front the east and west elevations. These were formerly playgrounds.

Remarkably, the Green Street School has retained its architectural integrity despite two major "remodeling" campaigns. The first was in 1970 when the city re-assumed ownership. The original window sash were removed at this time and replaced with smaller multi-light sash under plywood transoms. The two original entry doors were replaced with poorly scaled metal doors. The second campaign in 1983-84 involved the conversion of the vacant school to residential apartments. The window treatment was improved slightly with the installation of 1/1 contemporary sash and small skylights were installed in the roof. The entry doors were also improved with properly scaled, contemporary metal doors. Overall the building has changed little since its construction in 1890.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1890-91 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1890-91, the Green Street School in the city of Somersworth, New Hampshire is a handsome, pressed brick vernacular Colonial Revival structure which still retains integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship. Its architectural significance lies in its individual, vernacular masonry interpretation of the Colonial Revival style, strongly influenced by the Queen Anne building of the period. The Green Street School is the only example of this style surviving in the city. Historically, it is the oldest surviving graded school in the city. Its construction and use are closely linked with the French-Canadian immigration following the expansion of the mills after the Civil War. Ironically, it is also significant as the site of an educational innovation, manual training, necessary to re-educate the same population after the mills closed in 1922.

Architectural Significance

The architecture of the 1890-91 Green Street School is significant as a simple but effective late 19th century expression of current style in a small New Hampshire mill city school, in a town where a tradition of using popular architectural styles to impart up-to-date institutional character was established by two previously built major schools, both unfortunately demolished. The building is related, in the use of materials, to the granite-linteled brick mills built in 1824-1869, and the chief source of employment in Somersworth, and stylistically to the worker housing in the Federal/Greek Revival style.

Though constructed in an immigrant neighborhood, the architecture of the Green Street School continues the precedent for stylistic statements in school design in Somersworth begun in 1849-50 with the first High School building (Greek Revival, wood), and carried on in the 1873-75 Burleigh (Orange Street) Primary School (High Victorian, wood), both demolished.

Masonry construction in 19th century Somersworth was largely confined to corporate, civic and commercial architecture. Brick walls with granite lintels were used, beginning in 1824 for the mills of the Great Falls Manufacturing Company and some of the corporation's boarding houses. The 1831, 2-story brick school which preceded the Burleigh School on its site was described as "in the corporation style", presumably a reference to the stripped down Federal style of the mills. Residential architecture through the century was almost exclusively of wood construction. Masonry structures contemporaneous with the Green Street School in Somersworth were in the Romanesque style and included the (1888) Chandler Building of civic offices and library and stores (demolished), the Boston and Maine Railroad Station (1887) and the City Water Works Pumping Station (c. 1892) on the outskirts of town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Berwick, ME & Dover, NH (2 maps)

Quadrangle scale both 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	9	3	4	8	7	0	0	4	7	9	0	7	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

(see continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynne Emerson Monroe

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date October 17, 1984

street & number 121 Water Street telephone (603) 778-1799

city or town Exeter, state New Hampshire 03833

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Ralph Belmont*

title New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/24/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Frances S. Gurnea date 3-7-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Educational Significance

The Green Street School was closely linked with French-Canadian immigrants of St. Martin's Parish (1882) and the public education of this ethnic group until the opening of Holy Trinity Parochial School (1925) and closure of the Green Street building as a public school (1927). There appears to have been a unique pattern among French-Canadian students of the area, who alternately attended St. Martin's Parochial School (1902) and Green Street School. The rationale was based upon maintaining cultural ethnicity, which focused around the language and the church; and the practical need for a conventional public education taught in English.

Green Street School, occupying a site which had supported two earlier public schools, was unquestionably a focal point of neighborhood activity. Census data reveal that the largest influx of French-Canadian immigration into the city occurred in 1870-1880, with a total gain of one thousand people. Coupled with the accelerated population growth patterns of this group, the need for the new school by 1890 becomes evident. Its location in the French-Canadian parish, adjacent to St. Martin's complex, is significant in establishing the interdependent relationship between ethnic emigration, public education, and the over-riding influence of religious training.

Green Street School was the site of a significant educational innovation — manual training (1913), which reflected a nationwide trend and stemmed, in Somersworth, from problems inherent in educating a disparate minority which nurtured its cultural ethnicity quite independently. Its post-1934 use as the parochial commercial High School reflects the educational response to the changing fortunes of labor in Somersworth following the closing of the mills in 1922.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Hurd, D. H., & Co., Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. Boston: D. H. Hurd & Co., 1892. p. 251: Town of Somersworth.

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Report of the Town of Somersworth for the Year Ending March 1, 1890. Dover, NH: Evening Star, Steam Book and Job Print, 1890. pp. 78-81.

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Shapleigh, Richard W., "Public Schools of Somersworth," Granite Monthly 18 (January), 1895. pp. 58-63.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The property on which the Green Street School is located contains 28, 112 sq. ft.,+. It is rectangular in configuration in the same proportions as the structure. It is bounded on the east by Union Street; south by School Street; west by Green Street; and north by two parcels, a residential lot and a vacant lot. Map 9, Parcel 17.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property being nominated are concurrent with the boundaries of the total property associated with conveyance of ownership of the structure. They encompass the structure and a small amount of open space historically associated with the playgrounds of the school building.

Note

Boundaries of the nominated property have been highlighted in yellow on the enclosed sketch map.

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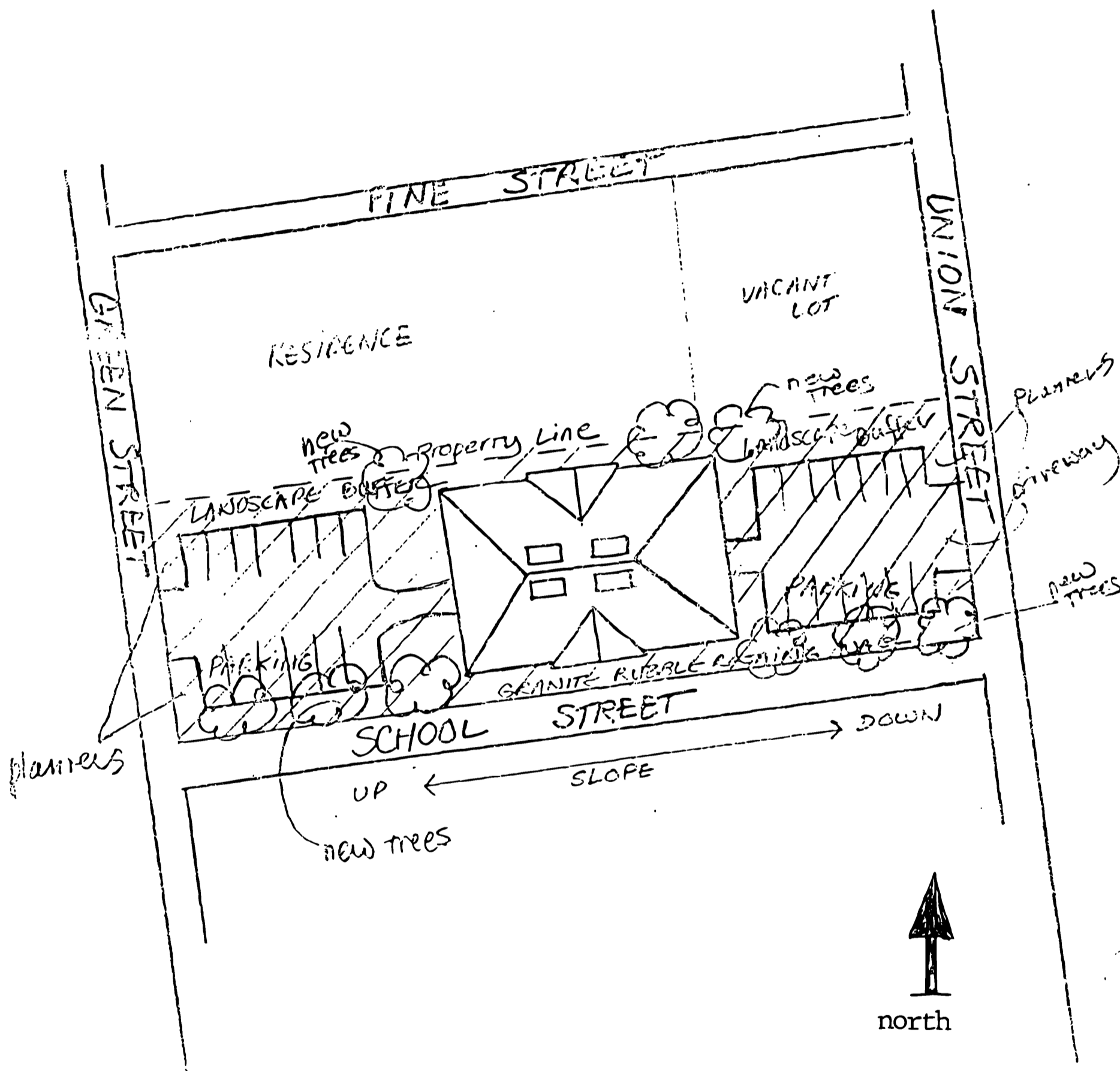
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THE
GREEN STREET SCHOOL
SOMERSWORTH, N.H.

SCALE: 1"=70'