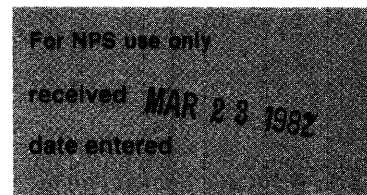


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2. (N-5625):

A. Property Name: Old Newark Comprehensive School

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: The Old Newark Comprehensive School is located at 83 East Main Street between Academy Street and South College Avenue. The property being nominated includes the building and parcel of land upon which it is situated with a frontage of 92 feet and a depth of 339 feet. (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 20, Lot no. 55).

C. Owner: C/O George V. Kirk, Superintendent, Christina School District, 83 E. Main Street, Newark, DE 19711

D. Property Description:

This two story, rectangular public building has five bays at the original north front facade; and addition to the west of the main building and accompanying interior renovations date from a more recent period. The central nineteenth century structure consists of American common bond brick laid in a 6 to 1 repeat, with a corbelled belt course between the first and second stories. Six-over-six segmental sash windows with stretcher lintels and louvered shutters are evenly spaced at both building levels. A three panel double door, featuring a molded stone lintel and a large keystone motif, provides the primary entry at the center building bay. Additional ornamental detail includes continuous rows of corbelled brickwork which support the cornice and outline the flat roof.

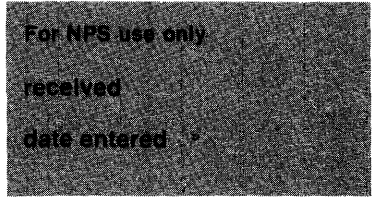
E. Historical Background:

Until 1884 Newark residents were unable to obtain more than an eighth grade education in local public schools. Those who desired a higher education either paid tuition to attend Newark Academy or were sent to live in the Wilmington school district where public education beyond the eighth grade was available. In 1884, Newark's two public schools (No. 39, located on East Main Street, and No. 41, located between Delaware Avenue and Main Street) were consolidated and housed in this newly constructed building at 83 East Main Street. The total cost of the structure, with a capacity of 185 students, was \$10,000. Grades one through eight occupied the first floor and Newark's first "High School" was located on the second floor at that time. The high school's curriculum was designed exclusively for college preparation and was available to white students only.

By the turn of the century, 83 East Main Street was too small for both elementary and high school classes. Since the Newark Academy had closed permanently, the Board of Education leased the Academy building for use by Newark's high school and the elementary grades occupied both floors of the present building. By 1907 a new elementary school was constructed on Delaware Avenue and the building at 83 East Main Street was temporarily abandoned. From 1935 until 1965 it was used for the high school's industrial arts program, and in 1965 the building was enlarged and renovated. At present this structure serves as the location of the Christina School District's Administrative offices.

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F. Significance

Completed in 1884, this building provided a centralized location for Newark's elementary schools and was the site of the city's first high school. A more recent and discreet building addition has not detracted from the architectural integrity of the original nineteenth century structure. Taken as a whole, the building illustrates the importance of education as a strong and continuous theme in the history of Newark's physical and social development.

SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

N-5625
Newark School District Bld.
Property Tax Map no. 20
Lot no. 55

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