

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only
received **OCT 19 1982**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Flocktown Schoolhouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Flocktown and Naughtright ^{Rds.} Roads N/A not for publication
city, town Long Valley vic. N/A vicinity of congressional district
state New Jersey code 34 county Morris code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name David Blum, under contract of purchase
street & number 40 East Mill Street
city, town Washington Twp. Long Valley vicinity of state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morris County Courthouse
street & number
city, town Morristown state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.J. Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1980 federal state county local
depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation
city, town Trenton state New Jersey

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>ca. 1906</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in a rural setting at the northwest corner of the intersection of Flocktown and Naughtright Roads, the Flocktown School, built sometime during the third quarter of the 19th century, is a simple 1 1/2 story clapboarded frame structure with a gable end front, a one story front porch, and a small bell tower. Moved from across the road in 1906, the school measures 32' X 22' and is on a randomly coursed fieldstone foundation. The pristine interior features narrow 1 inch beaded board paneling, pot-bellied stove, blackboard, teacher's desk and a few students' desks.

The front of the school has a single center entrance door protected by a one story porch. The dimensions of the porch are 20' X 6' supported by four wooden turned columns. In the gable is a single opening to the attic.

Each linear facade has three evenly spaced 16/16 double hung sash windows. All windows have paneled wooden shutters on wrought-iron pintles.

The rear wall has no fenestration. Flush against the wall is a sixteen inch square brick chimney on a concrete pedestal. This chimney breaks through the roofline at the ridge. The roof is gable with wooden shingles and no return. A small wooden cupola with louvered openings and a hip roof is centered at the ridge above the entry. The bell assembly is intact, but the bell is missing.

The foundation is randomly coursed native fieldstone with 6" X 8" sills. The wood frame has eight 6" X 8" main posts, one at each corner and two at interior bays. Sills and plates are of equal dimension and are mortise and tenon joined. Roof rafters taper up to the ridge supporting wood strips and hand split cedar shingles. The ceiling joists are reinforced at interior bay posts by "king post-like" wood trusses which frame up into the rafters.

The interior is especially pristine and has a floor plan of one large room behind an entrance vestibule. There are closets on either side of the vestibule. Overhead is a ceiling hatch to the attic, which was used for storage. The floors are tongue and groove boards. The walls and ceiling are paneled throughout in a dark stained narrow one inch beaded board. Two slate blackboards hang

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Flocktown Schoolhouse, Washington Twp.,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 1

Description (continued)

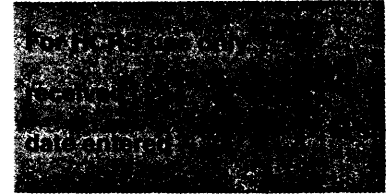
from the front wall. A pot-bellied stove sits at the front of the classroom with the flue pipe puncturing the paneling to the exterior chimney. A teacher's desk is near the stove. Much of the seating has been removed, but several old desks remain, fastened securely to the floor as was the 19th century practice.

The building, although vacant, is level, plumb, dry, and structurally sound. It is on a moderately wooded site with tall shade trees and clusters of birch. The immediate surroundings are primarily wooded or farmsteads, although an occasional modern house breaks the rural vista.

The present owner of the Flocktown School, David Blum, proposes to build an addition to the rear of the school. The existing structure will then be renovated. The rear addition will consist of a one story addition containing entry, kitchenette, bath, stair and coal bin linked to a 20' X 20' garage, bedroom and bath. Construction materials shall be narrow wooden clapboards, wood shingles, and stone foundation as per the existing structure.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet Flocktown Schoolhouse, Washington Twp.,
Morris County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 2

According to Lewis Barsony of Hackettstown, around the turn of the 20th century, the Flocktown School was moved to the southwest corner of Naughtright and Flocktown Road. It was originally at the northwest corner on property owned by farmer Gus Dufford. About one hundred years old in 1907, Dufford was continually teased by the school children, who would take apples from his adjacent orchard and throw them at his farm animals. This constant harassment and the very close proximity of the school to the roadway (2-3 feet) prompted the school board to purchase property on the southwest corner of the intersection (date transaction/ deed: 1901). This new location provided an adequate school play yard and greater distance from the road. A mason named Seals and a Carpenter named Carpenter (both former students of the school) constructed new stone foundations and bermed up earth between the two locations. With teams of horses, the wood structure was pulled from one foundation to the other.

(Lewis Barsony as told to Edward O'Brien, July 2, 1982. Barsony cites as references Margaret Dickenson and Florence Ayres, both teachers at Flocktown School.)

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 c. 1869 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Flocktown Schoolhouse, built in the third quarter of the 19th century, is the best preserved school of its period in Washington Township and features a particularly pristine interior. The school is an effective illustration of the local implementation of the prevailing educational philosophy in the last half of the 19th century. Practical and economical, the one room schoolhouse was especially well suited to small agrarian-based school districts. Used until 1929, Flocktown School also shows the longevity and popularity of the one room schoolhouse in rural New Jersey.

A school existed in Flocktown as early as 1798 when Morris County was divided into six townships, one of the largest being Washington, located in the southwest part of the county. Due to its size, the Township of Washington found it necessary to have six schools to adequately serve the educational needs of the 153 or so students attending school on any given day. Of this number, Flocktown had about 20 pupils, Pleasant Grove 18, Middle Valley 20, German Valley 30, Schooley's Mountain 25, and Naurightville 20 (History of Morris County, p. 381).

Both the Flocktown Schoolhouse and the road on which it was situated were named after Andrapus Flack and three other Flack families in the area who together accounted for a considerably large majority of the earliest students.

The student body had doubled in size by 1823. Forty students now crowded the crude, old log schoolhouse. Continuing the trend started in Middle Valley in 1810, Flocktown erected a larger stone structure on the site of the old schoolhouse across the road from the present structure.

Increased attendance led to the building of several new schools, Stephensburg (1835), Pilhower (1826), and Unionville (1830). Each had an enrollment of approximately 20 students (History of Morris County, p. 381). Schooley's Mountain followed suit in 1825, Pleasant Grove in 1827, and both German Valley and Naughtright in 1830. The German Valley stone schoolhouse still stands as part of the German Valley Historic District and serves as a museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.1 acre

Quadrangle name Hackettstown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	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

Block 20, Lot 6-2 - Washington Township Tax Map

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

Major revisions by Terry Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation 5/82

name/title Edward Matthew O'Brien, Architect

organization date 4/23/81

street & number R.D. #2, Water Street, Mountainville telephone (201) 832-2040

city or town Lebanon state New Jersey

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Selen C. Seush*

title date 9/13/82

For HCRS use only

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

Selen C. Seush
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 11/30/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Flocktown Schoolhouse, Washington Twp.,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 1

Significance (continued)

In 1847 Washington Township was divided into 15 school districts. Children between the ages of 5 and 16 totalled 738, but only 394 pupils were enrolled in school. The schools were open an average of six months a year. That same year the Annual Report of the [New Jersey] Superintendent of Public Schools (1847) included portions of Bernard's School Architecture, first published in 1841 for the Connecticut school systems. This publication provides a good picture of the acceptable schoolhouse of the period. One particular plan, that of a school-house in Gloucester, Rhode Island was considered a safe model:

"for small agricultural districts. The cost of the building and furniture was \$600. The style and arrangement of the seats and desks is indicated in Figures 3 and 4. The end pieces are of cast iron, and so shaped, as to facilitate the sweeping of the room, and the pupils getting in and out of their seats, and at the same time are firmly attached to the floor by screws. This building is 30 feet by 20 feet." (School Architecture as reprinted in the Annual Report of the [New Jersey] Superintendent of Public Schools, p. 286-7).)

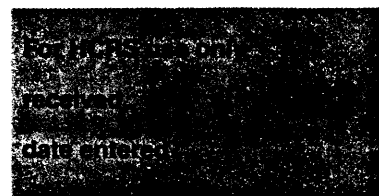
The Flocktown School, although of a later date, follows this general plan.

By 1857 Washington Township had only nine schools. The number of children in the Township, however, had increased to 859, of which 425 attended school. The average daily attendance was 243. Three years later Thomas Naughtright, the Township superintendent of schools, reported that "Our school houses are mostly in good repair, several of them being nearly new." It is improbable that the present Flocktown School had been built at this time.

In the Annual Report of 1864 the New Jersey Superintendent of Schools again published information relative to the design of school buildings in rural areas. This report, prepared by architect/builder Charles Graham and Sons, Jersey City, furnished school officers in the state with model designs for "well devised and

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Flocktown Schoolhouse, Washington Twp.,
Morris County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 2

Significance (continued)

commodious school houses." The design and construction of the Flocktown School may have been influenced by this report. Statistical charts of the Morris County school system indicated District #4 (Flocktown School) in 1868 had an enrollment of 27 students (68 potential; 19 average). The building itself was listed as being in poor condition. A year later the number enrolled had nearly doubled (52) and the building was now addressed as being in good condition. It is probable that the present school building was constructed at this time.

Tracing the history of Flocktown Schoolhouse is difficult and large gaps remain. Township records go back only to about 1907. County records are incomplete and fire destroyed all Washington Township Board of Education records prior to 1911.

As a rural, and therefore predominantly agricultural community, education was not given priority over the everyday demands of farming. Schoolwork was hard and long with the school day itself extending as long as eleven hours, depending on the weather and time of year. Many of the children - especially the bigger, older boys-were expected to help with the farm work during warm weather months. As a result, attendance often fluctuated as did the length of the school year itself. In 1869, for example, Flocktown Schoolhouse was open for eleven months of the year with an average attendance of 52 students, one of the most crowded schools in the district (Annual Report of Superintendent of Public Schools of State of New Jersey, 1869). However, in 1872, school was in session only nine months with an average attendance of only 19, one of the smallest student bodies in the township that year (Appendix to School Report for Year Ending August 31, 1872; pg. 140-141).

Mrs. Gladys Fancher (nee Ort) taught in the Flocktown School house from 1920 to 1928. She recalls receiving a salary of about \$900 a year. The school day ran from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Grades one through eight were all taught in the one room. Average enrollment from this period was 25-30 students. Fancher recalls the Flocktown School as being rather well equipped - two rows of double

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

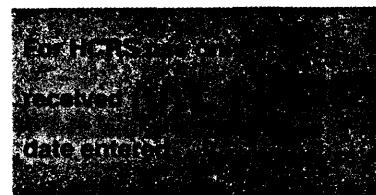
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Flocktown Schoolhouse, Washington Twp.,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey

Item number 8

Page 3



Significance (continued)

seats flanking the pot-bellied stove. The teacher's desk and blackboard were at the front, with an organ tucked away into the corner.

Periodically, the New Jersey Board of Education undertook surveys to determine the condition of school buildings throughout the state. A survey undertaken in 1922 rated all the school buildings in New Jersey. The results were in a state publication entitled School Building Survey. An average score was 66.9, the low rating being the result of having many buildings constructed prior to state standards in building codes adopted in 1912. Morris County schools received an overall rating of 63.6, slightly below the state average. In general, the higher rated counties were in the more urban areas and the lower rates came from the rural regions. The rural Washington Township school district received a raw score of 33.8, the lowest grade in the county and one of the poorest showings in the state (rated 455th out of 482). The Flocktown School received 220 total points of a perfect 650 for a score of 33.8 percent. All but one of the other elementary schools in the district rated below Flocktown. This study contained a substantial statistical bias which put rural school districts at a serious disadvantage when competing with modern school facilities and hence the generally low raw scores of the country schools.

In 1929, a centralized elementary school, large enough to accommodate all the township children, was built in Washington Township, and the nine small district schools were permanently closed.

Seven of the nine schools are extant. Four are now used as residences; Middle Valley houses offices of the Washington Township School District's Board of Education, and German Valley's 1830 stone structure serves as museum and headquarters for the local historical society. The schoolhouse at Flocktown was used at one point as an artists gallery and later as a knitting shop. Today it stands vacant and subject to increasing vandalism.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Flocktown Schoolhouse, Washington Twp.,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 8

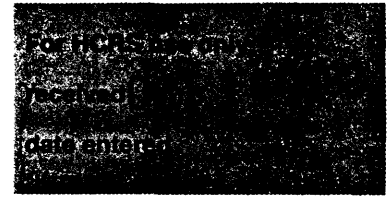
Page 4

Significance (continued)

Of the seven remaining schoolhouses, only Flocktown survives basically intact. Its pot-bellied stove, slate blackboards, and beaded board wainscoting are almost perfectly preserved. The exterior remains generally intact, giving a good impression of the materials, details and construction techniques commonly used on vernacular public buildings during the mid-to-late 19th century.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Flocktown Schoolhouse, Washington Twp.,
Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey. Beers, Ellis and Solve. 1868.

Bicentennial Booklet.

The History of Morris County: 1739-1882 W.W. Munsell and Co.,
1882.

A History of Morris County, New Jersey. Lewis Historical Publishing
Co., New York, 1914.

Map of Morris County. J. Lightfoot and Samuel Gell, 1853.

Mueller's Atlas of Morris County, 1910.

New Jersey State Board of Education Records, 1870-1872.

Robinson's Atlas of Morris County, 1877.

Tercentenary Days. Wayne J. Miller, et. al. Washington Township
Historical Society, 1964.

Washington Township Board of Education Records.

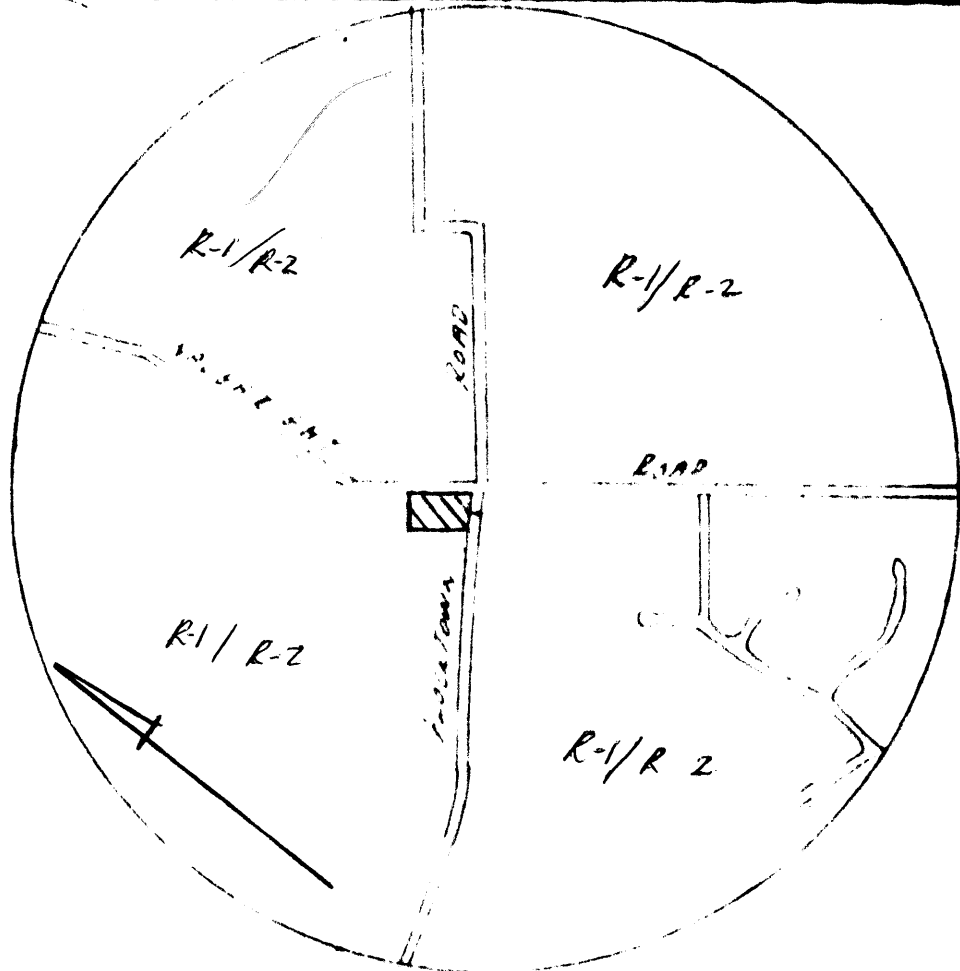
Washington Township Tax Records.

Persons interviewed (long time residents of Washington Township):

Gladys Fancher
Kenneth Hoffman
Harvy Ort
Harvey Searles
John and Mary Sliker

New Jersey Department of Public Instruction. School Building
Survey 1922, Trenton, New Jersey, 1923.

Annual Reports of the State Board of Education, Trenton, New Jersey.
Especially useful were the years 1847, 1851, 1857, 1858, 1860,
1861, 1864, 1868-1874, 1876, 1888.



KEY MAP

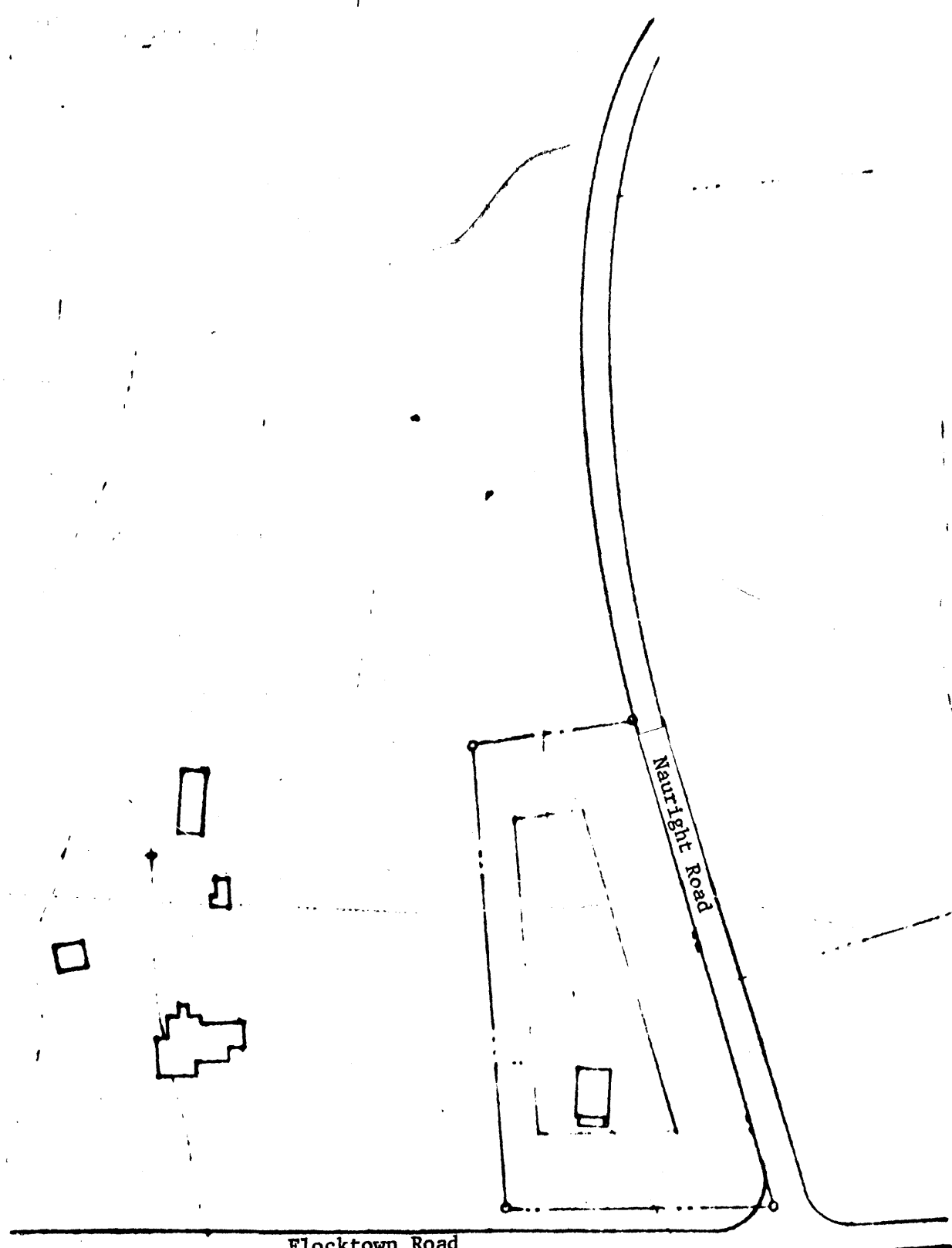
LOT 6-2 Block 20

TAX MAP PAGE 14

SCALE: 1" = 1000

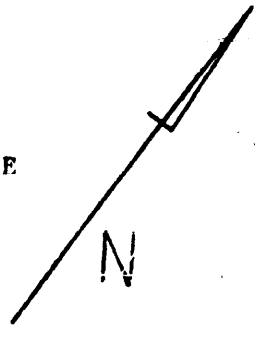
Flocktown Schoolhouse
 Washington Township
 Morris County, NJ

LOCATION MAP



FLOCKTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
MORRIS COUNTY, NJ

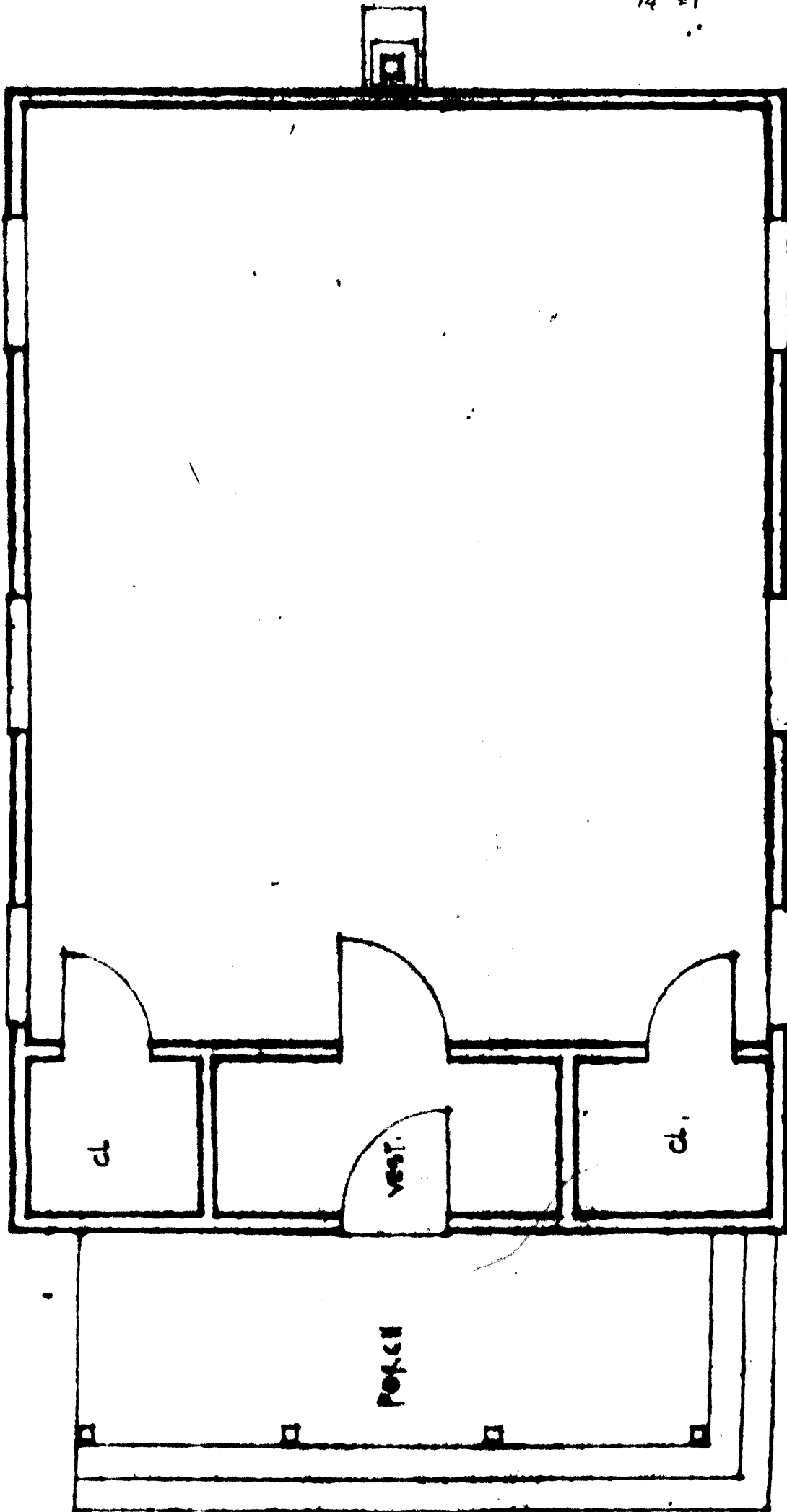
SITE PLAN

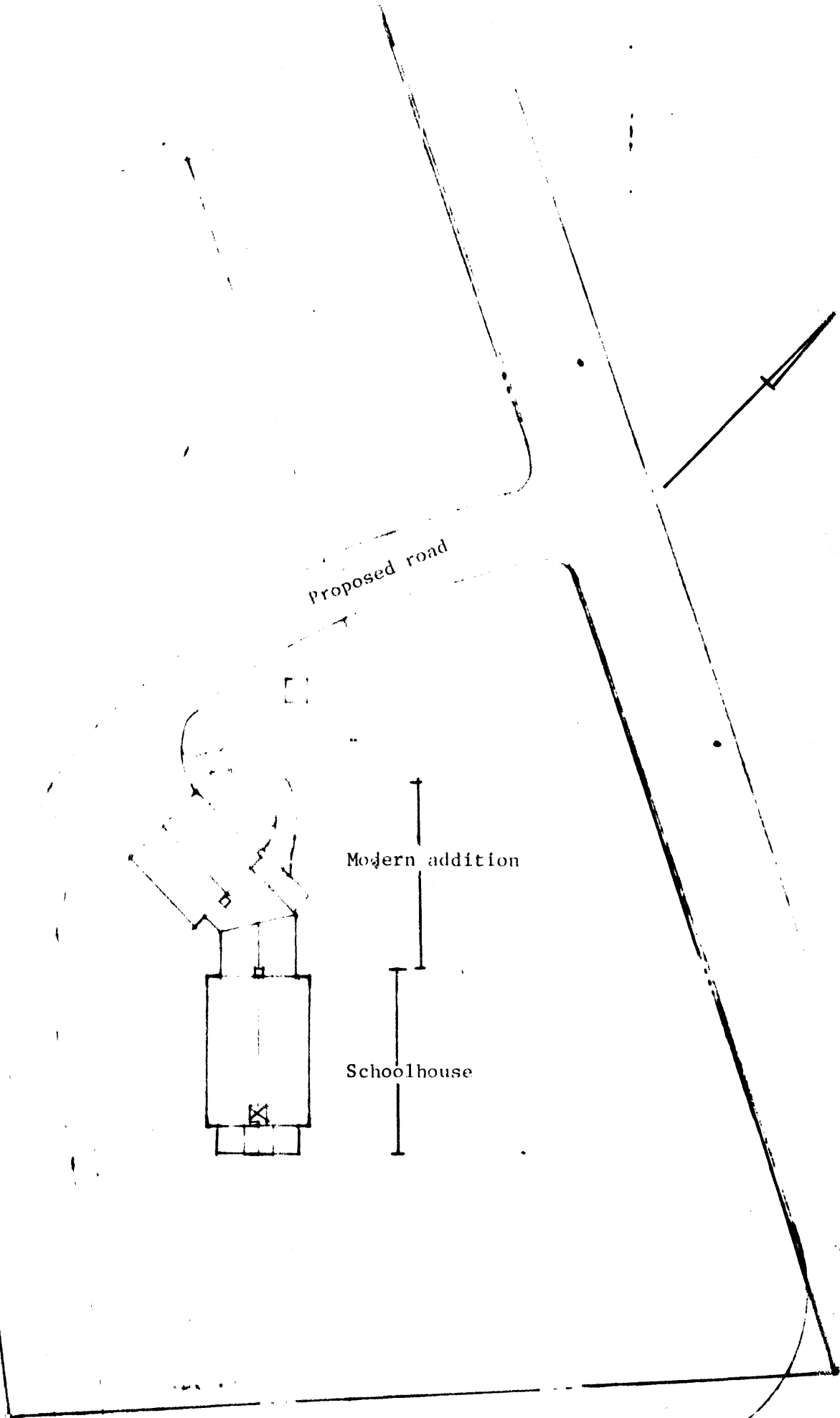


FLOCKTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
MORRIS COUNTY, NJ

FLOCKTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

FLOOR PLAN
1/4" = 1'





FLOCKTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN
1" = 30'