

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 25 1979  
DATE ENTERED NOV 29 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Adams School

AND/OR COMMON

Grace Court School

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

800 W. Adams

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

1st

STATE

Arizona

CODE

COUNTY  
Maricopa

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: none
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Phoenix Elementary District # 1

STREET & NUMBER

125 East Lincoln St.

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maricopa County Courthouse (Recorder's Office)

STREET & NUMBER

111 S. 3rd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The following describes Grace Court School:

There are three buildings located on five acres of flat land, fronting on Adams Street on the south, Ninth Avenue on the west, and Woodland Street on the north.

The largest of the three buildings is two-story, fronts on Adams Street and has an area of 33,492 square feet. The second building is one-story and fronts on Woodland with 16,056 square feet of area. The third building is located between the first and second buildings and has 6,450 square feet. Land area is 220,591 square feet or 5.0641 acres.

The two story building, built in 1911, is of the Neo-Classical Revival Style and rises imposingly above its surroundings. The major feature of the main facade of the school is the portico, with four Tuscan columns at the head of a flight of eight steps. A large entablature bears the school name. Another interesting feature is the denticulated cornice. The exterior walls are Tucson buff pressed brick. There is a tall chimney in the rear.

Inside, floors are hardwood. Wide halls, and classrooms with high ceilings surround a central 450 seat auditorium. Interior walls are plastered brick. There were modern facilities present which included an intercommunicating telephone system connecting every room in the building, a master clock and signal system, drinking fountains, restrooms with flushing fixtures, and two restrooms on the second floor. Fire hoses were arranged on racks at intervals throughout the building. Wide concrete staircases have iron ballestrades topped by oak bannisters.

There were special classrooms for sewing (where sewing machines, sewing tables and cases were placed), cooking and home economics (which was equipped with tables, ranges and stationary tubs, pots and pans) and manual training (woodworking). A basement housed heating, ventilating, and vacuum cleaning systems.

The Court Primary, along Woodland, is also of the Neo-Classical Revival Style with four pilasters at the portico in front of the main entrance. On either side of the entrance is a tier of windows, and also on the east and west ends. The building has roughly an "E" configuration. Four classrooms were built in 1919 and several additional classrooms were added in 1926. Floors are concrete. There are three restrooms. On the south side is a chimney.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The rectangular manual training building was built in 1926. Exterior walls are pressed brick. There is a row of windows on the north and south sides of the building, and in between the windows are brick pilasters. Decorative brickwork is present on three sides of the building. On the west side are three wide concrete steps leading to the main entrance. Inside are built-in lockers and large rooms containing specially designed benches and equipment for woodworking. Floors are hardwood.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1911/1919/1926 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Roberts/Harrison Albright

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grace Court School, formerly the Adams, was constructed in Phoenix in 1911, when Arizona existed as a territory, and was exemplary of the culmination of years of territorial evolution in areas of population growth, attitudes toward education, and community affluence and optimism. Population in Phoenix was a meager 300 in 1870, and increased slowly to 5,544 in 1900. Under territorial law limited funds for schools and teachers were obtained from territorial and county taxes based on assessed land values, and endowment income (public land sale and use). Between 1900 and 1910, population had risen 100 percent and the assessed value of all property in Phoenix was \$9,013,353.00; up nearly 500 percent from 1900-1901. The Enabling Act of 1910 had granted Arizona an enormous amount of land for endowment income, but the need for schools had increased and funds were still lacking.

Money used for the creation of Adams School was acquired through a special bond issue approved by territorial voters. The success of the bond issue was important to Phoenix. It was reflective of increased wealth and commitment to education. A building program for large schools funded by bond issues began with Adams; later schools followed the same successful procedure. When Adams was built it was the largest school in Phoenix and it was the first "modern" school. It very probably was a manifestation of public recognition that Arizona territory was in its last days and that anticipated statehood would usher in a new era.

The school district obtained the land for the buildings by purchasing it in 1910, at a cost of \$13000.00. Three lots (5,6,7 on map) of a block of land within a much larger area of land were selected. This area was known as Neahr's Addition; it was first platted by David Neahr and was the first addition to the city of Phoenix. Neahr laid out two blocks for a park in the center of this plat, where Carnegie Library and Library Park were established in 1908. The Library is within two blocks of Adams School and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Directly adjacent is Evans House, also on the Register. Another park, Woodland, lies adjacent to Adams on the north along Woodland Street.

Harrison Albright, the architect, designed the building around a central auditorium. Construction was done by the John Roberts Company, and on September 15, 1911 the school was opened to the public with a reception and much fanfare. Cost of the building was \$30,166.00. (See note 1.)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

QUADRANGLE NAME Phoenix

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 399360 3701450

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots two (2), three (3), five (5), six (6) and seven (7), Block One (1), NEAHR'S Addition to the City of Phoenix according to Book 2, Page 28 of the office of The Maricopa County Recorder except the north sixteen (16) feet of lot two (2), Block one (1), NEAHR'S Addition.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Russell

July, 1979

ORGANIZATION

N/A

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

2022 W. Palo Verde

TELEPHONE

242-6467

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix, Arizona 85015

STATE

## 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

*James O. Ayres*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

4 October 1979

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-29-79

ATTEST:

*Carol D. Shull*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-28-79

*[Signature]*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Due to the continuing trend of increasing enrollment, additional space was required, so land again was purchased by the district in 1915 (lot 3) at a cost of \$8,000.00. L. M. Fitzhugh was engaged as the architect for the Adams Primary building along Woodland in spring 1919. Construction began again, this time by J. Eagan Company, and was soon completed. (See note 2.) Cost was \$6,846.00. Additions again were added in 1926 at a cost of \$36,846.00.

The shop (manual training) building was constructed in 1926, after the school board bought a lot (Lot 2) directly east of the primary building. This was a structure designed for manual training purposes and was equipped with special benches and lockers. The lot was purchased from an early pioneer who was a two-time mayor of Phoenix.

The building was built by William Pepper and was completed on September 25, 1926 at a cost of \$36,846.00.

The first principal at Adams School was George A. Judson, who served until 1915. He was followed by H.E. Matthews. Grace Court, a woman who was on the staff the first year the school opened, became principal in 1918, and served for many years. She started the first safety patrol in the 1920's, the first color guard in 1929, and at the height of the depression in 1933, began the first student government in any local grammar school. When she retired in 1952, the school was renamed in her honor through the efforts of one of her former students, Jack Williams, who then was president of the school board and later became Governor of Arizona.

Social activities at Grace Court included a parent teacher association and a school baseball team. In 1943 the first day care center in Phoenix for children between the ages of six and thirteen years opened at the school. For 66 years, this facility served the educational and social needs of the community. A number of its students were to live distinguished lives.

In August 1977, because of revised fire code requirements and decline in enrollment, the school board decided to close Grace Court. Two buildings were closed and students were bused to other schools. The two story building was the oldest school in Phoenix still in use at the time of closure. At the present time, the manual training building and primary building are still being used for special classes of Phoenix Union High School. Of the schools constructed in Phoenix when Arizona was a territory, Grace Court is the only one which still stands.

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Time has been kind to this school. Due to the fine craftsmanship of construction, it is still structurally sound and virtually unchanged.

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Notes

1. There is another figure of \$76,000.00 quoted in another reference but is believed to be incorrect.
2. It is uncertain whether the building was actually completed in 1919, or early 1920.



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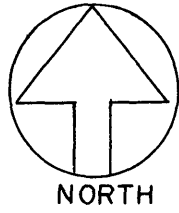
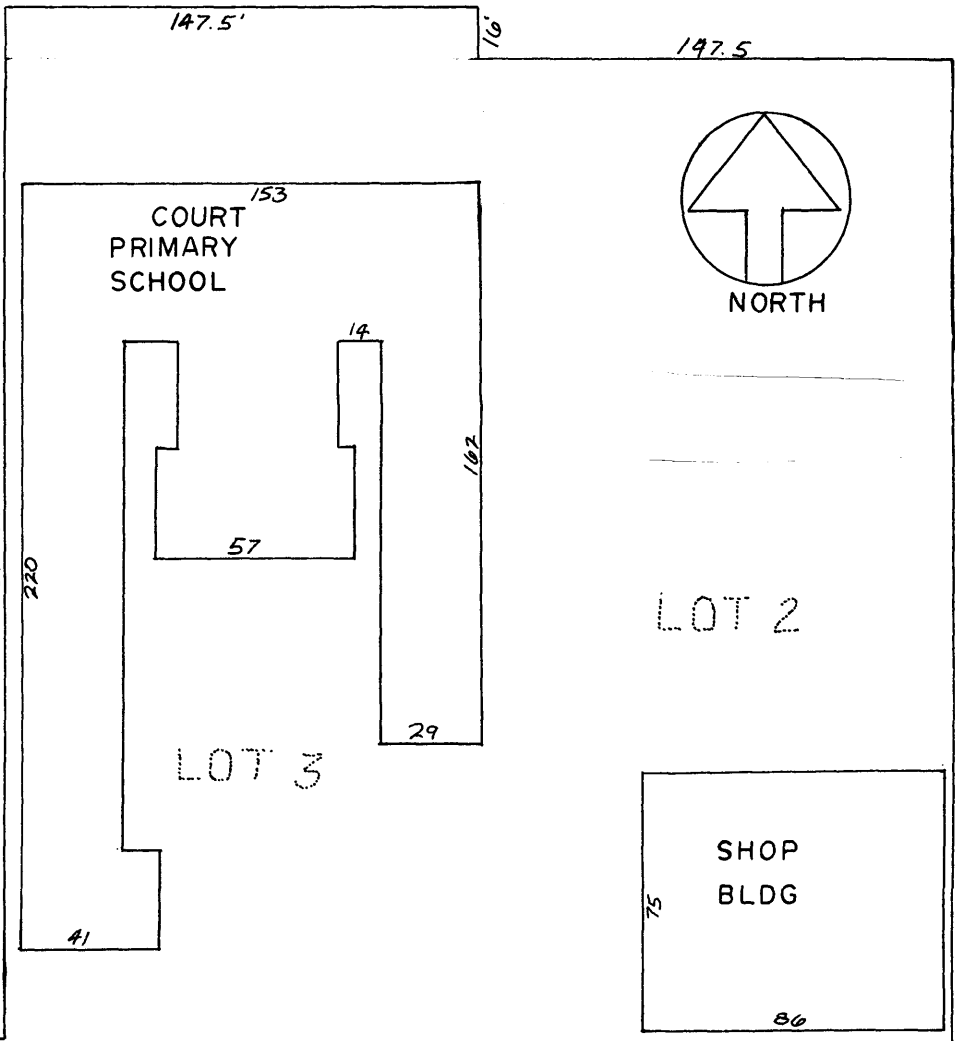
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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical References ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE One

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- Wagoner, Jay. Arizona Territory 1863-1912: A Political History. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1970.
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NEAHR'S

295'

