National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received MAR I I 1986 date entered MAR I 9 1986

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

II IVAIII	<u> 1e</u>			i suru kushati
nistoric	The Part No. of the Control of the C			
and/or common	Fourth War	d School		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	8 Washingto	n Street		not for publication
city, town Se	neca Falls	vicinity	y of	
state New Y	ork	code 036	county Seneca County	code 099
3. Clas	sification	1		
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition NA in process	\underline{X} yes: restric	ogress educational entertainment cted government	museum museum museum missing park missing private residence missing partition missing partition missing partition
	NA being consider	ed yes: unrest no	tricted industrial military	X other: vacant
4. Own	ner of Prop	no		
		no		
name Mark	Chaplin	perty		
name Mark	Chaplin	no Derty h Street	military	_X_other: vacant
name Mark street & number	Chaplin Sl57 Griffit chester	no Derty h Streetvicinity	military	_X_ other: vacant
name Mark street & number city, town Ro	Chaplin Sl57 Griffit chester ation of Lo	no perty h Street vicinity egal Descri	y of state	_X_other: vacant
name Mark street & number city, town Ro 5. LOC courthouse, regi	Chaplin Sl57 Griffit chester	no perty h Street vicinity egal Descri	military y of state iption y Courthouse	_X_other: vacant
name Mark street & number city, town Ro 5. LOC courthouse, regi	Chaplin Sl57 Griffit chester ation of Lo	no perty h Street vicinity egal Descri Seneca County West Williams	military y of state iption y Courthouse s Street	_X_other: vacant
name Mark street & number city, town Ro 5. LOC courthouse, regi	Chaplin 157 Griffit chester ation of Lo	h Street vicinity egal Descri Seneca County West Williams Waterloo	pof state iption y Courthouse s Street state	_X_other: vacant
name Mark street & number city, town Ro 5. Loca courthouse, reginated & number city, town 6. Repl N.Y. St.	Chaplin 157 Griffit chester ation of Lo	no perty h Street vicinity egal Descri Seneca County West Williams Waterloo on in Existi tory of	military y of state iption y Courthouse s Street	_X_other: vacant New York New York
name Mark street & number city, town Ro 5. Loca courthouse, regi street & number city, town 6. Repi N.Y. St.	Chaplin Chaplin Chaplin Chester Chaplin Cha	no perty h Street vicinity egal Descri Seneca County West Williams Waterloo on in Existi tory of	iption y Courthouse s Street state ing Surveys this property been determined	_X_other: vacant New York New York
name Mark street & number city, town Ro 5. Loca courthouse, reginated & number city, town 6. Repl N.Y. St.	Chaplin 157 Griffit chester ation of Lostry of deeds, etc. resentation atewide Inventor Resources 1984	h Street vicinity egal Descri Seneca Count West William Waterloo on in Existi tory of has	iption y Courthouse s Street state ing Surveys this property been determined	X_other: vacant New York New York eligible?yesX_n tatecounty Xlocate

7. Description			
Condition x excellent deteriorated x good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See Continuation Sheet

8. Significance

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X_1800-1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	community planning	• •	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1869 - 1896/1904	Builder/Aythitect Jol	nn Bowers, carpenter;	R. Jacobson, mason

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10.	Geographic	cal Data		
_	of nominated property gle name <u>Seneca</u> Fa			Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
A 1 8 Zone C E		7 512 21 210 thing	Zone Easting D	Northing Little
See	oundary description a e enclosed map states and counties fo		lapping state or county bo	undaries
state	N/A	code	county N/A	code
tate	N/A	code	county N/A	code
ame/title rganizati	on N.Y.S. Divis	ational Region for Hist	SEE CONTINUATION ister Program Assistoric date Feb servation ency Bldg#1 telephone 5	oruary, 1986
Ity or tow	vn Albany		state N.Y	12238
	State Histonated significance of this partional			er Certification
State Historic For NF	eby nominate this proper	ty for inclusion in to dures set forth by to signature signature erty is included in the summer of	the National Register and certifine National Park Service.	ty that it has been evaluated date 3/19/86

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

Continuation sheet Item number 7



Page 1

The Fourth Ward School is located at 8 Washington Street in the Fourth Ward neighborhood in Seneca Falls, New York and is within the boundaries of the locally designated Seneca Falls Historic District and the federally designated Women's Rights National Historical Park. (The Elizabeth Cady Stanton House is located one and one-half blocks north at 32 Washington Street.) The Fourth Ward neighborhood will not be included as part of the proposed Seneca Falls National Register Historic District now under consideration by the New York State Historic Preservation Although the turn-of-the-century houses in the Fourth Ward exhibit a great degree of uniformity in massing, style and material, the State Historic Preservation Office has determined that, due to extensive alterations, they lack sufficient architectural integrity as a group to meet the National Register criteria for evaluation.

The school building is sited near the northern boundary of the lot line on a flat, grassy, treeless, .75 acre lot; its main elevation faces Washington Street to the west. Surrounded by relatively modest, two-story wood frame, vernacular houses which grew up around it in the late nineteenth century, the red brick schoolhouse is a visual focal point in the residential neighborhood. It is the largest building in the neighborhood, the only brick structure in the immediate area, and the only institutional

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

Continuation sheet Item number 7



Page 2

structure in the Fourth Ward. While the houses in the Fourth Ward are situated on relatively small, urban lots close to the street, the schoolhouse is located near the center of the large and deep lot. All these features call attention to the structure and add to its visual prominence in the neighborhood. The nomination includes one contributing building.

The Fourth Ward School, erected ca. 1869, is a T-shaped brick building with Italianate style features. The building is composed of a rectangular, two-story, hip-roofed main block flanked by two one-story, gable-roofed service wings (added ca. 1896 - 1904). The cubic-massed main block features a hipped roof sheathed with standing seam, galvanized metal and is surmounted by a prominent cupola. Brick interior chimneys, located slightly off-center on the north and south elevations, pierce the Broadly projecting eaves and a wide, unembellished freize accentuate the roofline. Fenestration generally is requ-Segmentally arched window openings with shouldered brick lintels and dressed stone sills contain six-over-six or two-over-two double-hung sash windows. In scale, form, configuration and detailing, the school is essentially an adaption for civic use of a typical Italianate style residential form common in the region during the period.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

Continuation sheet Item number 7



Page 3

The three-bay-wide front (west) facade of the main block features regular fenestration. The centrally located main entrance features slightly recessed, paired, original wooden doors surmounted by a six-paned transom light and a segmentally arched, shouldered brick lintel. A wooden hood with a decorative wooden cornice supported by scroll brackets surmounts the entrance. The doors, originally reached by wooden steps, are now reached by a three-step concrete stoop added in the early to mid twentieth century. Segmentally arched openings contain six-over-six double-hung windows. The north bay of the first story, converted from a window into a secondary entrance in the early to mid twentieth century, has since been converted back into a window opening. Visually dominating the facade is the wood frame cupola atop the hipped roof. The cupola features a low-pitched, hipped roof now sheathed with standing-seam, galvanized metal (but originally sheathed with wooden shingles). Each elevation of the cupola features a tripartite, louvered window unit surrounded by simple wooden trim. Originally it housed the school bell. The finial, which originally surmounted the cupola, was removed in the early twentieth century.

The two one-story side wings, added to the main block ca. 1896 - ca. 1904, are flush with the plane of the front facade. Each wing, originally housing lavatory and office facilities,

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

data enter

Page 4

Continuation sheet

features a gable, metal-tiled roof with simple cornice returns. The north wing features a single, slightly off-center window in the front elevation with no openings in the side or rear elevations. The south bay contains a pair of slightly asymmetrically placed windows in the front elevation, one symmetrically placed in the side (south) and one in the rear (east) elevation. The segmentally arched openings feature shouldered brick lintels and cast cement sills and contain two-over-two double-hung sash windows.

Item number 7

The three-bay-wide, side (north and south) elevations of the main block feature slightly irregular fenestration, the windows having been placed toward the rear section of the structure, leaving a solid brick wall on the west side for the internal stairwells. The one-story side wings were added against these blank walls. The regularly spaced, segmentally arched openings with shouldered brick lintels contain six-over-six double-hung sash windows. While the north elevation has remained relatively intact over the years, the south elevation of the main block has been altered. A rectangular window over the rear gable of the It has since been south wing was added sometime after 1933. converted back to a brick wall. Also sometime after 1933, the center window on the first floor of the south elevation was converted into a garage door opening. Later, it was converted

Continuation sheet

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

re-check
Hets entered

Page 5

into a single door and rectangular window opening, the window placed to the left (west) of the door. The present owners have maintained the post-1933 door and window openings although new windows and a new door have been installed.

Item number 7

The rear (east) elevation is four bays wide and features regular fenestration. Originally, the openings were all segmentally arched with shouldered brick surrounds containing six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Sometime after 1933, the two center windows on the first floor were converted to doors. The present owners have maintained the doors on the main floor and converted the two center windows on the second floor into secondary entrances. In addition, a wooden porch and stairs serving the four apartments has been added.

The Fourth Ward School has a partially excavated basement and an interior brick bearing wall on the first floor which bisects the building into north and south compartments. At the main entrance, a vestibule (oriented north-south) provides access into the classrooms on the first floor. The vestibule once contained two curving staircases, one in the northwest corner and one in the southwest corner. Only the northwest staircase remains. The room configuration on the second floor was originally identical to the first except the vestibule was divided into three compartments. The north and south compartments served

Continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

received

Safe antered

Page 6

as an entryway into the respective classroom, and the middle compartment was originally constructed as a library. after its construction, the second-floor vestibule partitions were removed. They have since been replaced by the present Two large wooden posts on the second floor, one located in the center of the building near the front wall and the other in the center near the rear wall, support a massive truss system. A single pocket door originally separating the two rooms on the second floor has been replaced by an interior partition. the years, the structure has undergone considerable interior alterations including the removal of the southwest staircase, the cutting doors through the bearing walls into the north and south additions for access into the lavatory and office facilities, and the division of the internal space of the four classrooms into separate apartments. Current restoration plans retain the overall configuration, two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second, by sub-dividing each original room into separate living units.

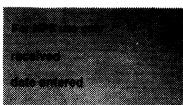
Item number 7

Despite the alterations made to the Fourth Ward School over the years, much of the significant interior detail still remains. The most dramatic feature is the curved staircase which has a graceful wooden handrail and turned newel post. Most of the wainscot around the interior of the exterior walls is intact as

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

Continuation sheet Item number 7



Page 7

are the lath and plaster walls above it, the beaded tongue and groove ceiling on the first floor, the pressed metal ceiling on the second floor (dating from the early twentieth century), and the narrow maple floor boards throughout. More obvious reminders of the building's original function which remain include a blackboard (believed to date from the early twentieth century) in the north apartment on the second floor, a bathroom stall, and a ladder leading to the cupola. The bell, which announced the beginning and end of the school day for 64 years, was sold at the estate sale following the previous occupant's death.

Continuation sheet

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

received (allo entered

Page

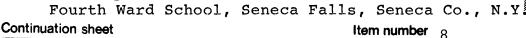
Built in 1869, the Fourth Ward School in Seneca Falls, New York is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of mid-nineteenth century schoolhouse architecture in Central New York. As a building type, it illustrates the mid- to late nineteenth century evolution of schoolhouse architecture from one-room schoolhouses to larger buildings which featured segregated classrooms, each with its own teacher. A typical example, it embodies many of the features that were popular in schoolhouse design during that period including a symmetrical plan, modern amenities and separate classrooms occupied by students segregated according to age. Stylistically, the Fourth Ward School is a representative example of the Italianate style. Although it is a civic building, in form, massing and detailing, it is essentially an adaption of Italianate style residential architecture forms common in the region during the period. Italianate style attributes embodied in the building include the cubic massing, a low-pitched hipped roof surmounted by a prominent cupola, broadly projecting eaves and a wide unembellished The school also reflects an important aspect in the frieze. development of public education in New York State because its construction was, to a great extent, initiated by state legislation in 1867 which abolished the rate-bill thereby making public education "free," and consolidated local schools into

Item number 8

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form





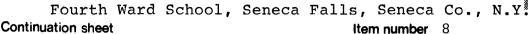
Page 2

larger districts, which gave the local school board more control over raising funds. Within the context of the city of Seneca Falls, the Fourth Ward School is significant for its association with the industrial expansion and the population growth of Seneca Falls during the mid-nineteenth century and the consequent expansion of the city's school system. A visual focal point in the Fourth Ward neighborhood, the school serves as an important reminder of the nineteenth century growth and prosperity of the neighborhood and the city.

Like many communities along the Eric Canal and its feeders, Seneca Falls grew with break-neck speed after the completion of the canal in 1825. That year, Seneca Falls was a small community with only three mills built along the 45-foot drop in the Seneca River. Thirty five years later, in 1860, it was a bustling city renowned for the production of pumps and fire engines. The local economy had become nationally and internationally based, and the capital that was generated nurtured other industries and spawned a wealthy industrial class interested in art and culture.

Literary societies and social clubs developed, band concerts were held and theatre became a diversion. The dramatic growth in population as well as a growing interest in the arts put tremendous pressure on the local schools. Seneca Falls's common schools were funded, as were all common schools in New York at the time, only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form





Page 3

in part by state funds administered by the State Superintendent of Public Education. It was the responsibility of the local communities to provide funds through taxing district property owners and through a rate-bill which placed a direct charge on the parents of the children attending school. While there was considerable support in Seneca Falls for improved public education through increased funding on both the state and local levels, it was not until 1867 -- two years before the construction of the Fourth Ward School -- that major improvements began to occur. That year, the New York State legislature abolished the rate-bill, thereby making education, at least theoretically, available to everyone. 2 In addition, the legislature redrew the district boundaries and several common schools were consolidated. 3 At the same time, the Seneca Falls Academy, until then a private institution charged with "rounding out the system (of education) by furnishing means for higher culture," 4 was placed under the authority of the Board of Education. all levels of schools in Seneca Falls were placed under the auspices of one governing body, allowing for improved allocation and use of local resources. The Board immediately levied a tax on property owners that year⁵ and raised the taxes again in 1868. These measures, however, did not resolve the over-crowding in the area schools.

Continuation sheet

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.

raceived
Sinto entored

Page 4

By the middle of the nineteenth century, patterns of settlement and land use were emerging. The businessman built their businesses on the north side of the Seneca River, in the First and Second Wards, and constructed their imposing homes along Cayuga Street, also north of the river. The mill and factory workers lived south of the river, in the Third and Fourth Wards. Two small, one-room schoolhouses (dating from the 1830s) served the educational needs of the Third and Fourth Wards. The Fourth Ward Schoolhouse played an important role in the immediate area, serving as the focal point around which rapid development and expansion during the third quarter of the century in the Fouth Ward neighborhood occurred.

Item number 8

In May, 1868, the Board called a tax meeting in order to discuss the construction of a school on the south side of the Seneca River. Few people attended the meeting. The Board of Education did not have to wait long for public interest to develop. In August, three months after the meeting, the one-room brick schoolhouse built in the 1830's at 8 Washington Street in the Fourth Ward was destroyed by fire started by "incendiaries." The Finance Committee of the Board of Education levied \$4,000 in bonds in order to pay for the construction of the new Fourth Ward School on the site of the first schoolhouse. It was ready for occupancy at the beginning of the 1868-69 school year.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y.



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page

5

The additional school rooms, however, did not ease the pressure on the Seneca Falls school system. As a result, two years later, in 1871, a new Third Ward six-room schoolhouse was constructed on the site of a previous school which had been built in the 1830's. Of the four schools which formed the Seneca Falls school district at this time [the Third Ward School, the Fourth Ward School, the Union school (serving the children of the First and Second Wards), and the Seneca Falls Academy] only the Fourth Ward School is extant.

The exact source of the design of the Fourth Ward School is unknown although in form, scale and style it appears to be derived from Italianate style residential architecture of the Two local names are associated with its construction: period. John Bowers, a carpenter, joiner and framer, and Robert Jacobson, a mason. Gertain elements popular in schoolhouse design during the mid- to late nineteenth century and found in the Fourth Ward School were featured in schoolhouse pattern books of that period. These include the symmetrical placement of the two rooms on the first floor and two rooms above reached by two curving staircases (only one survives today), the volume, shape and capacity of the classrooms, the separation of the two classrooms on the second floor by pocket doors, and the prominent siting of the schoolhouse. 10 These features, for the most part, were related to the

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N.Y



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 6

comfort of the students, an increasingly important consideration in school architecture during the time, and to the educational movement underway which segregated children according to age and placed them in separate classrooms, each with its own teacher. An article in a Seneca Falls newspaper, The Reveille, aptly touts the Fourth Ward School as being, in "all respects," the "finest one in the county." 11

Stylistically, the Fourth Ward School represents a vernacular adaption for civic use of the Italianate style. It is the only institutional version of the style remaining in Seneca Falls today. Distinctive characteristics of the period and style embodied in the structure include the cubic massing, the low-pitched hipped roof surmounted by a prominent cupola and regular fenestration. Restrained decorative detailing typical of the style includes the wide, unembellished frieze, the ornamental entrance hood and the brick embellishments above the window openings.

The Fourth Ward School served the elementary school children of the Fourth Ward until 1933 when the First, Third and Fourth Ward Schools were consolidated and the larger Elizabeth Cady Stanton School was built on Garden Street as one of the first WPA projects. After the Fourth Ward School closed, Howard B. Warner, an electrician and long-time resident, purchased the building and

National Register of Historic Places Inventory Name of Mistoric Places Inventory Name of Historic Places Inv



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

converted it into apartments. Although the Fourth Ward School was the subject of several unsympathetic alterations, Warner's conversion was rather haphazard and much of the original interior fabric remains intact. Warner owned the building until his death in 1981.

In 1984, the Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization, purchased the Fourth Ward School from the estate of Mr. Warner. The not-for-profit organization stabilized the school and maintained it, and sold it in 1985 to Mark Chaplin. He and his partner, John Strawway, are converting the structure into four apartments, being careful to maintain the historical integrity of the schoolhouse. The substantially intact schoolhouse remains an important reminder of mid- to late nineteenth century school architecture, a representative example of Italianate style architecture and a prominent local landmark in the Fourth Ward community.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., NY

Continuation sheet: Item number



Page 8

8

FOOTNOTES

David M. Ellis et al., A History of New York State (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, n.d.), p. 318.

²Ibid., p. 319.

Grip's History, Souvenir of Seneca Falls, New York (New York: n.d.), p. 97.

Anna E. Henion, "Early Schools of Seneca Falls,"

1803-1903 100th Anniversary of the Town of Junius, Historical

Papers Read before the Seneca Falls Historical Society, n.d.,
p. 65.

⁵The Reveille, 12 June 1967, p. 4.

6"Tax Meeting," The Reveille, 8 May 1868, p.4.

7 "School House Burned," The Reveille, 7 August 1868, p. 4.

8 The Reveille, 18, September, 1868, p. 4.

9 Seneca County Directory, 1867-1868, pp. 10, 141.

James Johonnot, <u>Country School-houses Containing</u>
Elevations, Plans and Specifications of Estimates, <u>Directions</u>
to <u>Builders</u>, <u>Suggestions as to School Furniture</u>, <u>Apparatus</u>,
etc;, and a <u>Treatise on School-house Architecture</u> (New York:
Ivison and Phinner, 1859) pp. 140-150.

11 "The New School House" The Reveille, 7 August 1869, p. 4.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co. Continuation sheet Item number



Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Eisenhart, Edward C. "A Century of Seneca Falls History Showing the Rise and Progress of a New York Village." Thesis, Dept. of History, Princeton University, 1942.
- Ellis, David M.; Frost, J.A.; Syrett, H.C.; Carman, H.J. A History of New York State. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, n.d.
- Grip's History, Souvenir of Seneca Falls, New York. York: n.d.
- Henion, Anne E. "Early Schools of Seneca Falls." 1803-1903 One Hundredth Anniversary of the Town of Junius, Historical papers Read Before the Seneca Falls historical Society. New York: n.d.
- Country School-houses; Containing Elevations, Johonnot, John. Plans and Specifications and a Treatise on School-house Architecture with Numerous Designs by S. E. Hews. New Ivison and Phinney, 1859.
- Seneca County Directory 1867-68, New York: 1868.
- Seneca Falls Historical Society, Seneca Falls, New York.
- Seneca Falls Reveille, 12 June 1967, 8 May, 7 August, 18 September 1868, 7 August 1869.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use cate

eceived

date entered

Fourth Ward School, Seneca Falls, Continuation sheet Seneca Co., N.Y.

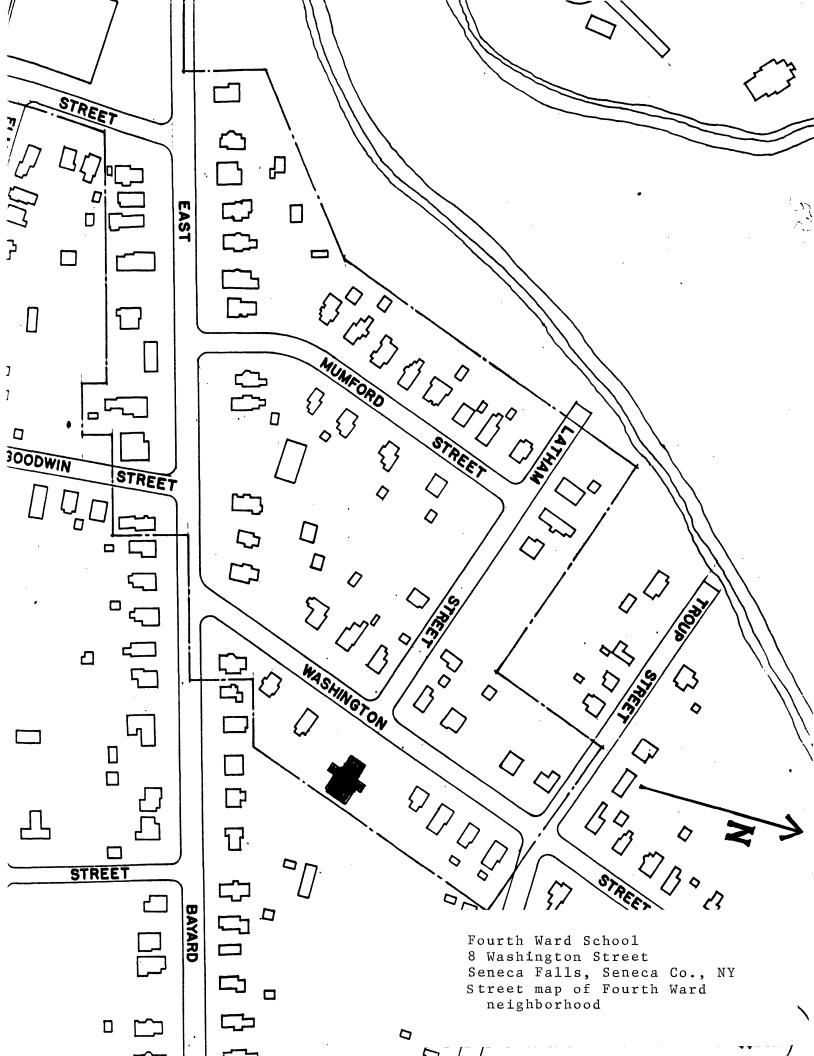
Item number

11

· Page

Research documentation and draft nomination prepared by:

Mary Williams Neustadter 300 West 106th St. New York, N.Y. 10025

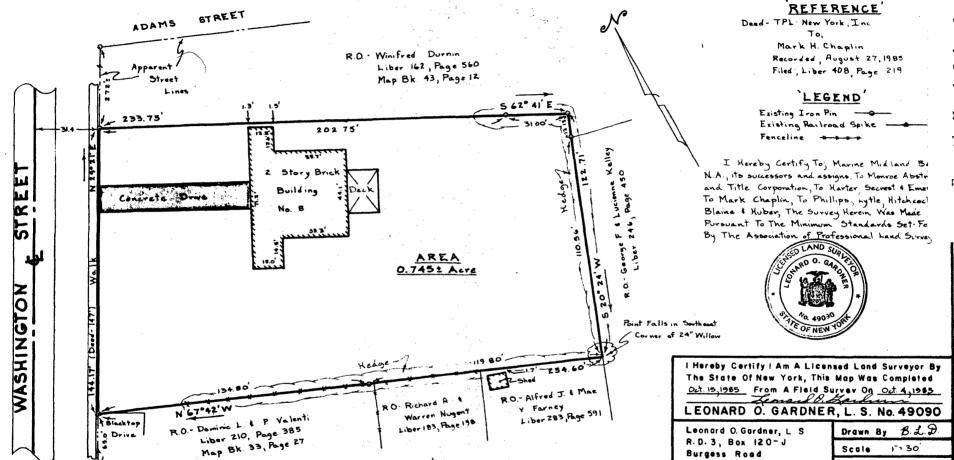


SURVEY MAP

MARK H. CHAPLIN

8 Washington Street

Town of Seneca Falls ~ Gounty of Seneca Village of Seneca Falls ~ State of New York

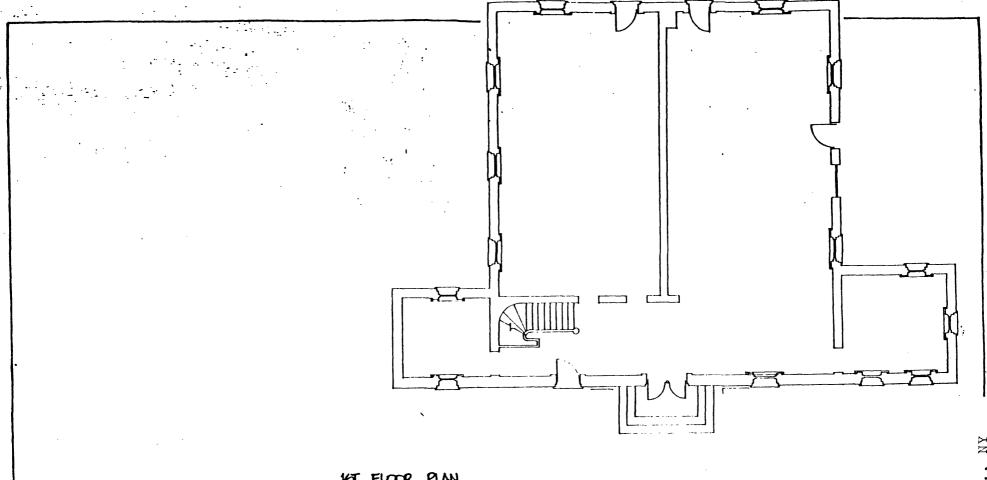


Leonard O. Gardner, L S R. D. 3, Box 120-J Burgess Road Waterioo, New York 13165 Drawn By B. L. D

1"= 30

Job No. 85-205

Scale



15T FLOOR PLAN SCALE: 16:1:0"

NORTH K

WOL

WASHINGTON STREET

4th Ward School Existing fourth hard little tour Albert to t