

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

For NPS use only

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

received MAR 15 1985

date entered

APR 11 1985

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

1. Name

historic Irving Murray Scott School

and/or common I. M. Scott School

2. Location

street & number 1060 Tennessee Street N/A not for publication

city, town San Francisco N/A vicinity of 6th Congressional Dist.

state California code 06 county San Francisco code 075

3. 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 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Community Center

4. Owner of Property

name San Francisco Unified School District

street & number 135 Van Ness Avenue

city, town San Francisco N/A vicinity of state California 94102

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hall of Records

street & number City Hall

city, town San Francisco state California 94102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title San Francisco Historical Landmark 138 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April 1, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, 450 McAllister Street

city, town San Francisco state California 94102

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The I. M. Scott School, located in the Potrero Hill District of San Francisco, is a two-story wood-frame building with a concrete foundation and a hip roof. Its Classical Revival style was common for the period during which it was constructed (1895), and it blends in well with the Victorian homes of that time, many of which still exist in the neighborhood.

The I. M. Scott School building is basically rectangular in shape, measuring 75 feet wide across the front and 82 feet deep. Along the front of the building on Tennessee Street the concrete foundation extends to the sides of the property, acting as a retaining wall for the school yard, which is approximately five feet above the sidewalk level. Two concrete stairways penetrate this retaining wall, one on either side of the building, and allow access to the school's play yard. The school yard is currently covered completely with blacktop, except for two small grassy areas on either side of the building in front, behind the retaining walls, along and above the sidewalk. Behind the building, the school yard extends to the edge of the property at the sidewalk along Minnesota Street. The entire yard is surrounded by a hurricane fence, erected to contain the playing balls of the schoolchildren. There is one exit gate in the middle of the fence on Minnesota Street. Here, the play yard returns to the equivalent grade of the sidewalk and street. The play yard also contains a basketball court, 61 feet wide and 95 feet deep, in the northwest corner. And at the southwest corner of the building in the yard, there is a 26-foot by 29-foot sandbox, with a climbing play structure in the middle. This school yard is held and used as public open in accordance with Resolution No. 7874 of the city planning commission.

There are double doors on the north, west, and east (Main Entrance) sides. On the south side, a single door is no longer in use, its wooden stairs to the ground having been removed. While in use, this exit led to the outside Girls' Toilet building, with a wood canopy covering the short walk. The double doors on the north side of the building have a covered porch on the outside, and adjacent to that another wooden canopy leads to the Boys' Toilet building. Previously, this north side doorway acted as a more formal entrance from the play yard as one can see from the concrete stairs and landing, covered porch, and richer trim ornament than on the south side. A short corridor inside this door connects to the main hall at right angles, and to the right after entering the north doors are the stairs leading to the second floor. On the second floor, there are only two outside doors, those leading to the fire escape at the back of the building.

At the back of the building (west side), the double doors of the rear entry and the stairs have been enclosed on the outside to form an 8-foot by 18-foot porch, which is the building's only deviation from the rectangular form. At the second floor, this porch is not enclosed, but with the addition of two exit doors and an iron stairway to the ground (33 risers) forms a fire escape. The main entrance of Scott School is on the east side facing Tennessee Street. Thirteen concrete stairs rise from the sidewalk where the entrance penetrates the plane of the front of the building. The doorway is high overhead at the sidewalk, slightly offset to the right of the center of the building. The front doors open onto the main corridor of the first floor, which continues to the back of the building and the rear entry previously mentioned.

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The arrangement of rooms within the building is along either side of the main corridor. This hallway extends from the front entrance straight through to the back doors. Immediately to the right after entering the front door are two small office rooms, formerly the principal's offices, and beyond them are the stairs leading to the second floor. There are 25 risers all together, each seven feet wide, and there is one landing in the middle where they double back to the second floor corridor. The second floor corridor is directly above the first, and classrooms are aligned along either side of the hall in the same manner. The second floor includes five classrooms, the first floor only four. Three of the classrooms on the second floor (south side) are separated by partition walls with large four-panel pocket doors. By opening these doors, the three rooms could be joined into different combinations needed. Typically, each classroom has five windows on its outer wall along either the north or south side of the building as the case may be. The second floor classroom in the northwest corner of the building has windows of gradually diminishing height, aligned along the top, so that they appear to be stepping up gradually toward the corner. (See photo #2.) There are windows at both ends of the corridor on both floors, and a window on either side of the doors at the north side entrance. Finally, there are 14 windows at the front (east side) and 13 at the back (west side) for a total of 75 windows throughout the building. All the window frames are wooden and double hung. The wood exterior trim moldings are horizontal, square, and ornamental in the Classical Revival style, which is typical of all the moldings in the building, inside and out. The outside doorways include side panels that are fluted in the manner of columns. This technique is also used at the outside corners of the building, where flat wooden fluted pilasters, complete with capitals and bases, extend from foundation to cornice. The cornice itself includes classically styled ornamental brackets all the way around the building. Because of its shallow rise, the roof itself is nowhere visible from the street around the property. It is covered with edge-joined galvanized steel sheets, in the same manner as the original roof, and rises to a single point over the center of the building. The north quarter of the roof includes the only two (brick) chimneys of the building. There is an open unused attic under the roof, and a crawl space beneath the building.

I. M. Scott School is close to its original finish both inside and out. The exterior has recently been repaired with shiplap redwood siding to match the original, and entirely repainted. The roof has also been restored and the galvanized steel surface is a close match to the original. Inside, much of I. M. Scott School is in disrepair. The floors, originally wood, are covered with a linoleum flooring that needs to be replaced. The plaster walls and ceilings have many holes to be patched, particularly on the second floor. The interior trim moldings are generally original, and include some ceiling brackets of similar design to those on the cornice outside. Coatracks, wainscotting, door moldings, and blackboards date from refurbishing during 1945 and 1963, but are generally in agreement with the character of the building. All the original gas light fixtures have been removed and plastered over. Each of the classrooms has a space heater which is modern, the heaters having been replaced several times during the history of the school.

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Currently, I. M. Scott School is leased from the San Francisco Unified School District by the Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation. PHCDC has made some repairs to the building and currently has a request before the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Community Development for additional funding to "correct the fire, health, safety code violations in the I. M. Scott multi-purpose community center".⁽¹⁾ Aside from basic repairs, and notably the space heaters and coatracks in the classrooms, and the enclosed back porch, the I. M. Scott School building is essentially the same as when it was originally constructed. The two toilet buildings on either side of the school are currently boarded up, and could be removed with no damage to the school itself. These toilet buildings are not original and detract visually from the main building, also, there are other toilets inside. Further repairs to the building could serve to augment its value to the City of San Francisco, the School District, the Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation, and in particular to the people of the Potrero Hill neighborhood. This could certainly be accomplished with respect to the historical nature of the building itself.

(1) From: The Mayor's Office of Community Development (OCD), Request for Funding (RFF), proposal No. 41, 1984.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1895 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Irving M. Scott School is the oldest surviving public school building in the City of San Francisco and the only one to date back to the 19th century. The 1895 Classical Revival building is a notable example of its type and period, and retains its late 19th century appearance. Named to honor a prominent benefactor, Irving Murray Scott, this grammar school also included vocational training as part of its program and was the first public school in the city to include facilities for teaching cooking.

The history of I. M. Scott School is almost as long as the history of the school system of San Francisco itself. The first school was founded in 1865 as Potrero School, at the corner of Twentieth and Kentucky (now 3rd) Streets, one block from the current location. In 1867, several parcels of land throughout the city were set aside for school purposes by the Outside Lands Committee under Order No. 800, including the current location of I. M. Scott School. By 1877, the old school at Twentieth and Kentucky was no longer adequate for the growing population of the area, and Potrero School was moved to a new building on the current site. The new Potrero School* was built facing Minnesota Street, on the opposite side of the lot from the current building. In 1895, the I. M. Scott School was built on the property, facing Tennessee Street. This building received the name Irving Murray Scott School in honor of a prominent benefactor and local industrialist. Irving Murray Scott was a principal owner of the Union Iron Works, which included a large foundry and ship building concern in the industrial area to the east of the school. By the 1870s, the Potrero Hill District had become a chief location for industry. Nearby were the houses of workers who had moved to the area to be close to the factories. Thus, I. M. Scott School was a "working class" grammar school, and it included facilities for teaching cooking (the first such facilities in a public school in San Francisco) and carpentry.

I. M. Scott continued in its grammar school function until the mid-1970s, except for a brief interruption during World War II. In March 1942, due to falling enrollment, it was decided to close I. M. Scott School and move the students to two other schools nearby. Then, in December 1942, the San Francisco Board of Education decided to utilize the school for War Production Training Program classes. This program continued until the end of 1944. In January 1943, the Board of Education granted the San Francisco Fire Department permission to utilize the school yard as a site for a wartime temporary auxiliary fire station. By April 1945, the war was winding down and the School Board was approving plans for restoration and reconstruction of the I. M. Scott building to return it to classroom use. This included a general refurbishing of all the rooms, new floor surfaces, and new space heaters, as well as general painting and cleanup. In the fall of 1945, classes at I. M. Scott School resumed, and they continued until June 1975, the last year regular classes were taught

* Building no longer in existence

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.68 acre

Quadrangle name San Francisco North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	5	3	8	6	0	4	1	7	9	0	0	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

B

Zone	Easting						Northing							

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barry Pendergrass/Staff Researcher

organization Community Design Center date 11/03/83

street & number 2101 Bryant telephone (415) 647-1366

city or town San Francisco state California 94110

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 Marion Mitchell-Williams

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/24/84

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

Julia Silvers Byers Entered in the National Register date 4/1/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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at I. M. Scott. At that time, plans were drawn up for further rehabilitation of the building to bring it up to modern school standards at an estimated cost of \$206,000, based on a 1969 engineers report. Since the school district was short of cash, and the local population of school-age children did not present a demand for the school, I. M. Scott has not been renovated and remains in a state of disrepair.

In 1979, the San Francisco Unified School District agreed to lease I. M. Scott School to the Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation, which has operated in the building since that time. Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation is a non-profit organization which arranges mortgage loans for low income people in the district, as well as a lunch program for seniors, senior outreach program, English language instruction (primarily for high school dropouts), and general community center functions. The Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation has a current application on file with the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development for funding to make some basic repairs to the interior of the I. M. Scott building, so that they can utilize more of the building (currently only about half of the space is usable) and expand their programs. Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation is the initiator of this application for National Historic Register recognition, and hopefully such recognition will open some new opportunities both for them and for the I. M. Scott School building in the future.

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Elementary School Buildings, N. L. Englehardt, Sr., et al., San Francisco School Survey, 1948, V. II, Pub. by the San Francisco Board of Education, San Francisco, CA, 1948.

The Making of Golden Gate Park, The Early Years: 1865-1906, Raymond H. Clary, California Living Books, San Francisco, CA, 1980.

Real Estate Owned by the City and County of San Francisco, Pub. by order of the Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, July 1, 1909.

San Francisco Municipal Reports for the fiscal year 1877-78, Ending June 30, 1878, Pub. by order of the Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, 1878.

Unpublished Material:

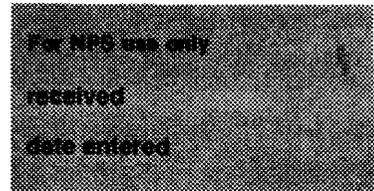
I. M. Scott School file, San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, San Francisco Planning Department, 450 McAllister, San Francisco, CA.

I. M. Scott School file, San Francisco Unified School District Property Manager's Office, 135 Van Ness, San Francisco, CA.

I. M. Scott School file, San Francisco Unified School District Teachers' Library, 135 Van Ness, San Francisco, CA.

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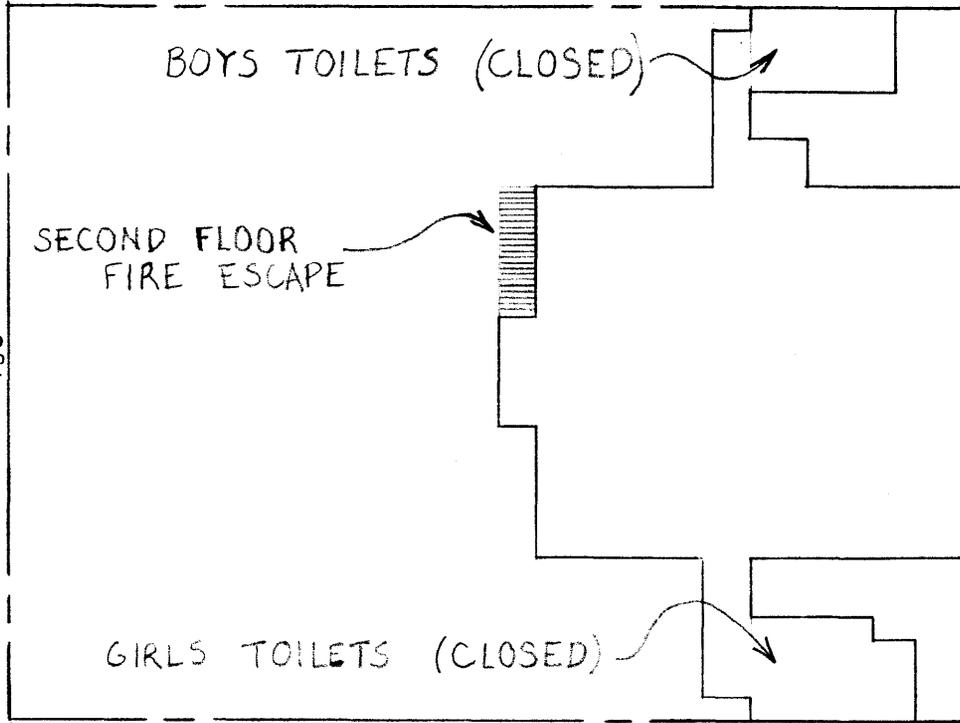
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Boundaries are drawn on historic lot lines and encompass the building and its grounds. Block 4107, Lot 6, "Commencing on the east line of Minnesota street, 141 1/2 feet north from Twenty-second street; thence north on Minnesota street, 150 feet by 200 feet in depth, to Tennessee street".

From: Real Estate Owned by the City and County of San Francisco, Pub. Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, July 1, 1909, San Francisco, California.

MINNESOTA STREET
150'



TENNESSEE STREET

200'

I. M. SCOTT SCHOOL
1060 TENNESSEE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
SCALE 1" = 40'-0"