# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets

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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Description

#### SUMMARY

The Day Street Public School, now known as Orange City Hall, is a Second Empire style building, completed in 1869. It was designed by a local Newark architect named John P. Huber, and constructed largely according to his original drawings, which survive today in the collection of the New Jersey Historical Society. The building is located within the heart of the City of Orange Township, a densely developed urban center, and is approximately a block north of Main Street, the primary commercial thoroughfare. The building's immediate context today has changed little from its time of construction, and includes a mix of commercial, religious, and residential buildings (Photo 1).

The 3 ½-story, 3-bay by 5-bay, mansard roofed building witnessed two notable additions. The first occurred in 1913 when it was converted from educational to municipal use. Neoclassical style details, most notably a columned front portico, were designed by New York architects Van Vleck & Goldsmith (Photos 2, 6, and 7). Minor changes to the building interior, including reconfiguration of the stair hall, were also completed at this time. In 1978, a three story, cantilevered addition (architect unknown) was constructed at the west end (rear) of the building (Photos 3 and 4). While the exterior of the building retains a relatively high degree of architectural integrity, interior spaces have been reconfigured to create smaller areas suitable for multiple offices and finishes have been updated over time.

#### **EXTERIOR**

Huber's original drawings for the building include a front elevation and floor plans. The drawings have been folded and are deteriorating, with some fragments missing. They are very simple line drawings, and appear, based on remaining historic fabric, to have been followed faithfully when the building was constructed, although no historic photographs of the School shortly after its completion were located.

The brick building is capped by a mansard slate roof (Photos 2, 5, and 8). When it was completed in 1869, it incorporated a tall, central cupola (no longer extant but detailed in Huber's elevation drawing) that featured a Palladian motif and ornamental cresting. The cupola was likely removed during the 1913 renovations (Van Vleck & Goldsmith drawings for the third floor show a note that states "remove present dormer" in this location). Original dormer windows define each bay of the roofline (Photos 2, 5, and 8); most are arched, with the exception of the center bays on the side (north and south) elevations, which are paired and pedimented. A brick chimney (formerly an exterior chimney) rises between the mansard and the 1978 addition (Photo 5). Brick at the east façade is set in a running bond pattern, while the brick at the north and south elevations is laid in a five row common bond pattern. A sandstone water table separates the ground level from the piano nobile, and continues around the entire building to become the trim at the bottom of the cantilevered west addition (Photo 5). The corners of the building are defined by sandstone quoins at the ground level, and the bays at each elevation are defined by corbelled brick arches (Photo 5). The openings of windows are also defined by corbelled brick arches (Photo 9). At the piano nobile, the window openings are accentuated by a triple arch, while the second floor openings have a double arch. Windows at the basement are paired. Windows are double hung wood sash, with the exception of the thermal windows at the basement, which are casements.

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Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Description

Sanborn maps from 1885 show a small, rectangular, freestanding outhouse to the rear (west) of the building. This outhouse does not appear on the Sanborn map of 1895, just ten years later, although the building does show a small, rectangular bay stairtower addition on its north elevation. The 1912 Sanborn map shows a small, rectangular, "w.c." addition centrally located on the west elevation. This addition was subsequently joined by several other small appendages at that same elevation, as shown on the Franklin map of 1932. All of these small additions at the west were ultimately removed and replaced with the 1978 cantilevered addition. The 1932 Franklin map also shows a driveway that encircles the building; this circular drive also appears in historic aerials from the 1930s through the 1970s, but is eliminated with the construction of the 1978 addition.

The east (primary) elevation of the Day Street Public School faces North Day Street and is its most significant and public facade. It is three bays wide and symmetrically arranged with a central entrance that is dominated by the 1913 pedimented wood portico designed by architects Van Vleck & Goldsmith (Photos 2, 6, and 7). Original drawings for the Van Vleck & Goldsmith work are on file at Orange City Hall, but include only floor plans, no elevation schemes. However, historic photographs and an examination of the building fabric indicate that the primary elevation as it exists today has witnessed almost no change since the Van Vleck & Goldsmith alterations were completed, with the exception of modern doors and lighting.

The portico features four Ionic wood columns decorated with egg and dart and bead and reel moldings that support a heavy entablature with a coffered ceiling. The columns rest on brick piers capped with concrete. At the center of the column bases is a metal statue of an eagle (Photo 10). The main entrance to the building is located at the piano nobile within the portico and is recessed, with a wood panel surround. Doors are double wood doors with a single light in each, capped by a wood and glass transom. Two modern frosted glass globe-shaped light fixtures frame the entrance (Photo 2). This entrance is closed temporarily for repairs and access has been relocated to grade, at the base of the portico (Photo 10).

The 1978 wing of the building at its west end, also brick, is capped by a shallow hipped roof (Photos 3, 4, and 5). The wing was designed to harmonize with the earlier, Second Empire block, and features windows with arched openings, symmetrically arranged, that continue the rhythm of openings established by the original construction. There is an entrance to this wing at grade beneath the cantilever at the west elevation.

#### INTERIOR

When completed in 1869, the building supported eight classrooms on the upper stories, with a primary classroom and principal's office in the basement. Original drawings by Huber show that the rectangular floor plan was essentially symmetrical, with a center hall that extended through two-thirds of the building and terminated in a central stair hall and utility core. The majority of the third floor served as an assembly hall, with several small partitioned spaces for separate programming at the rear of the floor.

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Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Description

The renovations to the building that were designed by Van Vleck & Goldsmith in 1913 included some interior reconfiguration; largely, spaces were made smaller through the addition of new partitions. Some of the walls were also plastered or re-plastered. At the basement level, new columns replaced original columns, likely designed to carry additional structural load from the upper stories. Restrooms were added on the third floor, and a masonry vault and stairhall/elevator and stairhall lobby were added at the center of the building. The stairhall lobby featured a floor light (glazed floor) at each level, which allowed light (entering from a skylight at the roof) to penetrate through each floor. The third floor assembly hall was converted to provide meeting space for the Common Council and sessions of the district court, and the basement was given over to the police department, arrangements that persist today.

Currently, the building is accessed at grade through the entrance at the east elevation (Photo 10). A central, double loaded corridor leads to a boiler room which exits at the parking lot at the west (Photo 11). There are several municipal departments housed at this Basement level. Most of the finishes are modern, installed within the last 25 years, and include commercial carpeting and acoustical dropped ceilings (Photo 13). Several older features dating either to the original construction or 1913 renovation can be found, however, including a pressed tin ceiling with an egg and dart cornice within a small interior room on the south side of the floor (Photo 12), and a transomed doorway between an office and waiting area, also on the south side of the floor.

At the First Floor, the hallway extends the length of the building (Photo 14). This hallway originally terminated just beyond the stair hall, but was likely extended (changing the configuration of the spaces at the northwest and southwest corners of the building) when the 1978 addition was constructed. It was also reduced in width, and built out at the north wall to create a small waiting area for the Mayor's office at the east end, near the porticoed entrance. On the west side of the stairwell at the First Floor is a small reception area that is defined by a wall-mounted memorial to the Orange residents who served in World War II. The wood triptych is divided by carved pilasters and topped with a carved wood cornice (Photo 15). Most of the finishes on the First Floor are modern (Photo 16), although some original door openings with transoms and plaster walls with original molding remain.

The organization of the Second Floor is similar to that of the First Floor, with the hallway having been extended and reduced in width (Photo 17). Throughout the floor, some details dating to either the original period of construction or the 1913 alterations continue to exist, such as doors or wood moldings (Photos 18 and 21). The City Clerk's office is located in the southeast corner of the main building (Photos 19 and 20). This area was planned as the City Clerk's Office when the building was converted for use as the municipal offices in 1913. Of all the office spaces within the building, it has retained the highest degree of architectural integrity. The door to the hallway retains its original transom. The walls are plaster with wood trim. The east wall is wood paneled with frosted glass. This panel is not shown in this space on the 1913 plans, although a similar panel does appear at this location on the first floor, indicating that it may have been relocated. These panels are divided with pilasters. Original steel fluted columns exist in this office.

The Third Floor is original to the main block of the building and is accessed by the central stairway (Photo 22). The Council Chamber, originally the school auditorium, occupies most of the third floor. A stained glass skylight, which may date to the original 19<sup>th</sup> century construction, is present above the acoustical ceiling tiles in the hallway (Photo 23).

Day Street Public School

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The Council Chambers are located at the east end of the third floor and are accessed by large double doors from the hallway (Photo 24). The Council Chambers, which appear to have been renovated in the 1960s or 1970s, extend the width of the building with the Council's bench at the south wall (Photo 25). The walls are plaster with framed wood panels. The ceiling has shallow acoustical tile coffers with florescent lighting in the center of each coffer.

The Housing/Relocation Department is located in the northwest corner of the Third Floor (Photo 26). This space, like the Council Chambers, appears to have been renovated in the late 1960s or 1970s, and retains relatively unusual details specific to this period (Photo 27). The floors are carpeted and the door is a wood paneled pocket door. The walls are covered with multi-directional wood paneling with integrated built-in cabinets. The ceiling has coffered acoustical panels with florescent lighting.

8.	State	ement of Significance	
(Ma	ark "x"	able National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property al Register listing)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
		Described and stated with an area Marketine	Education
X	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Architecture
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
M	С	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses	
		high <b>artistic</b> values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1869-1913
		Considerations	Significant Dates
(Ma	irk "X"	in all the boxes that apply.)	1869, 1913
Pro	perty	y is:	
	Α	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
	В	removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
	С	a birthplace or a grave.	(2004)
	D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
	E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A
	F	a commemorative property.	
	G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
		within the past 50 years.	John P. Huber, Architect
Na (Ex	rrativ plain th	ve Statement of Significance he significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9.	Majo	or Bibliographical References	
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Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Statement of Significance

#### SUMMARY

The Day Street Public School was constructed in 1869. It was the community's first public primary and high school, designed from its inception to house all grades together. Its construction reflected the advancements in education that took place immediately after the Civil War with the creation of a more thorough legal system that supported and encouraged the development of public schools. Its architect, John P. Huber, was based in nearby Newark and designed the building in the then-popular Second Empire style. The building was renovated for use as Orange's municipal building in 1913 by Beaux-Arts architects Van Vleck and Goldsmith of Fifth Avenue in New York. The majority of the renovation was confined to the building interior, with the exception of a new, central entrance. No additional changes were made until 1978, when a three-story, architecturally compatible extension was erected at the rear (west) elevation. The building is known today as Orange City Hall.

The Day Street Public School represents the significant development and growth of our state's public educational system in the second half of the nineteenth century. Unlike many of New Jersey's early public schools, the Day Street Public School has retained much of its architectural integrity, and it continues to stand in the center of the community as an important local structure given its current use as City Hall. The Day Street Public School is eligible under Criterion A as an important extant example of an early urban public school that helped to set the standard for modern public education in New Jersey, and under Criterion C as a well preserved example of the Second Empire style.

#### CREATION OF A NEW PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL

Orange was initially settled by colonists from New Haven, CT, and was part of the City of Newark until 1806 when the Township of Orange (which included not only the present City of Orange Township but also what is now known as South Orange, West Orange, and East Orange) was created by an act of the New Jersey State Legislature. The City was incorporated as the Town of Orange in 1860, but was then quickly fragmented, with portions seceding to become South Orange, East Orange, and West Orange by 1863. In 1872, Orange was incorporated as a City, and became known as the City of Orange Township.

The City of Orange Township was well connected to larger metropolitan areas early in its history through its situation on or near major thoroughfares such as the Newark and Mount Pleasant Turnpike, which linked Newark and Morristown. The Morris & Essex Railroad (later part of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad and ultimately part of the New Jersey Transit system) passed through Orange beginning in 1836. The city always had a strong industrial base; among the significant

D. L. Pierson, History of the Oranges to 1921, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1922, 370-1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Oranges and Their Leading Business Men, Newark: Mercantile Publishing Co., 1890, 7-8; W.H. Shaw, History of Essex and Hudson Counties, New Jersey, Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1884, 735.

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industries were hat making, boot and shoe making, and brewing. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the number of factory workers was increasing and the population growing. Consideration began to be given to the construction of a high school in 1861.<sup>3</sup>

In 1868, Orange created a Board of Education.<sup>4</sup> Its first superintendent, Rev. Robert L. Dashiel, pastor of the Methodist Church, remained only a few months before being called away to serve as President of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He was replaced by Rev. Eldridge Mix, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.<sup>5</sup> One of the first priorities for the new Board of Education was the creation of a high school.<sup>6</sup> A lot was selected next to the First Presbyterian Church on Day Street, and construction began. The total cost of the new building, including land, was \$50,000.

The architect for the new building was Newark, NJ-based John P. Huber. Huber's original plans for the school, along with various Articles of Agreement, survive today in the collection of the New Jersey Historical Society. The Articles of Agreement identify the building simply as "Three Story Brick School House on Day Street." Sanborn maps from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (1885, 1895) show it as "Public High and Grammar School;" it is not until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that it is apparently more commonly referred to as "Day St. Public School;" it is referred to in this way on the Sanborn map of 1912.

Little is known of Huber's biography, although he appears in Newark directories in the years 1858 – 1872 at various addresses on either Broad or Market Streets. Prior to completing designs for the Day Street Public School, Huber designed Princeton Theological Seminary's Brown Hall, a dormitory, constructed during the Civil War and completed in 1865. He is also identified as the architect of the Anthony Reckless Estate in Red Bank, which was completed in 1870, shortly after the Day Street School.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Oranges and Their Leading Business Men, 7-8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The New Jersey State Legislature created a State Board of Education in 1866, and an 1867 law established a statewide educational system that was overseen by the State Board of Education and managed by County Superintendents and Township-wide School Boards. The new laws also allowed school districts to tax for the construction and repair of schoolhouses. H. Green, Classrooms Struggle: A History of School Construction in New Jersey, forthcoming, 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Pierson, 370.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Pierson, 371.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Sanborn Map Co., *Orange, New Jersey*, New York, 1885, 1895, 1912. Shaw, 1884, 743-744, provides statistics for each of Orange's schools in 1884, and refers to the building simply as "High School," although the charts show that it supported 393 students aged 6 to 16 and 22 students over the age of 16. The charts show that three other schools existed in Orange by that date: the Valley School, Lincoln Avenue School, and Park Avenue School, all of which were focused on children under the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Enlargement of Princeton Seminary," The Baltimore Sun, October 12, 1863, p 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Reckless was the founder of the New York and Long Branch Railroad. Today the Estate functions as the Red Bank Women's Center. (http://visit.redbank.com/historic.php, accessed 16 July 2010.)

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Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Statement of Significance

Huber moved his practice to Chicago following the great fire in that city in 1871, and he is included on a list of Chicago buildings associated with their architects for an addition completed in 1874. <sup>10</sup> It would seem that Huber relocated to Chicago with his son, Julius H. Huber (born in Newark, NJ in 1852), together with a number of other architects of German descent. John Huber formed a brief partnership with his son in Chicago, circa 1873-1876, after which Julius Huber was employed by the city and then in his own architectural practice. <sup>11</sup>

Huber's Day Street School was completed in 1869, an impressive three-story, three-bay, brick Second Empire structure. The building supported eight classrooms on the upper stories, with a primary classroom and principal's office in the basement. The majority of the third floor served as an assembly hall. The heating and ventilation system for the building was designed by Lewis W. Leeds, author of A Treatise on Ventilation, published by John Wiley & Sons in 1876. Leeds lists the "Public School at Orange, NJ, architect J.P. Huber" among the buildings for which he provided plans and specifications; also included are buildings for Farnham College in New Haven, CT by Russell Sturgis, Jr. and Stevens Institute in Hoboken, NJ by R. Upjohn. Leeds' philosophy, "Man's own breath is his greatest enemy" appears on the book's frontispiece; we can assume that the students who attended the Day Street Public School were privileged in having one of the most sophisticated heating and ventilation systems of the time.

The choice of the Second Empire style for the new school building was not unusual; the style enjoyed a relatively short but intense period of popularity in the United States from the late 1850s through the 1870s. Although its roots were in French design, American architects favored the style not only for its association with France's Second Empire but also for the way in which it provided an extra story of usable space beneath its Mansard roof (at the Day Street Public School, this space was largely given over to assembly space). The style was particularly popular with architects working in the national capital, most notably James Renwick, who used the Second Empire at the Corcoran Gallery in 1859, and Alfred B. Mullett, who adopted the style for his 1871 State, War, and Navy Building. While not nearly as ornate as either of those structures, Huber's Day Street Public School shared certain architectural features, among them the expressive use of dormer windows and three-dimensional detailing, such as quoining and blind arches.

12 L.W. Leeds, A Treatise on Ventilation, New York, John Wiley & Sons, Publishers, 1876.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The addition was for the St. Ignatius College Prep Building, 1076 W. Roosevelt Road, <a href="http://www.patsabin.com/illinois/architects.htm">http://www.patsabin.com/illinois/architects.htm</a>, accessed 16 July 2010. Huber also designed a 226' tower for Holy Family Church that was, in 1974, the tallest structure in the Chicago. It would appear that the client, Father Arnold Damen, was the same for both the St. Ignatius College Prep Building and Holy Family Church.

<sup>(</sup>http://www.holyfamilychicago.org/newsroom/100423Buscher.htm, accessed 16 July 2010.)

11 R.M. Geraniotis, "German Architectural Theory and Practice in Chicago, 1850-1900," Winterthur Portfolio, v. 21, no. 4, Winter 1986, 293; A.T. Andreas, History of Chicago, vol. 3, Chicago, A.T. Andreas, 1884-86, 72.

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The dedication of the Day Street Public School was held on September 13, 1869, and Dr. William Pierson, Jr., President of the Board of Education, as well as several local pastors, addressed those in attendance. The Orange Brass Band provided entertainment.<sup>13</sup>

In addition to dedicating a new public grammar and high school, The Town was witnessing other types of growth at this time; in particular, the weekly newspaper, the *Orange Chronicle*, began distribution in 1869. In the same year, the Central Presbyterian Church began construction of a new church and parsonage, and the Young Men's Christian Association dedicated its first headquarters on Main Street, near Day Street. 14

In 1890, the city supported four principal school buildings: the Day Street Public School (known simply as the High School and identified as having nine rooms), the Park Avenue School (eleven rooms), Lincoln Avenue School (eight rooms), and Valley School (two rooms). An 1890 publication bragged, "All of the public school buildings of Orange are large and substantial structures of brick, with considerable architectural beauty." 16

#### RENOVATION OF THE DAY STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

In 1901, the City of Orange determined that it had outgrown its offices in the Canfield Street Engine House. In 1906, the City opted to construct a new high school to replace the Day Street Public School and to adapt the school building for use as the City Hall. A new high school was constructed just two blocks away, at the corner of Main and Cleveland Streets. The renovation of the Day Street Public School, which reportedly cost \$50,000 (as much as the building had cost to erect), allowed for the consolidation of all city departments (with the exception of the fire department).

It would seem that several years passed before the renovations were actually undertaken and the municipal offices could occupy the building, as the plans for the renovations are dated 1913. The architect for the renovations was the firm of Van Vleck and Goldsmith, of Fifth Avenue in New York City. The principals of the firm, Joseph Van Vleck, Jr. (1875-1948) and Goldwin Goldsmith (1871-1962), were both New Jersey natives. They met at Columbia University, from which they graduated in 1896, and subsequently formed a partnership (1897). Both were thoroughly versed in the Beaux-Arts tradition; Goldsmith worked as an office assistant and draftsman for the firm of McKim Mead and White and studied at the Atelier Dusay in Paris. The firm of Van Vleck and Goldsmith was, coincidentally, in its last year in 1913 when the drawings for Orange City Hall were completed. As a firm, they had completed a YMCA (1899), First Methodist Episcopal Church (1899) and the Madison

<sup>13</sup> Pierson, 371.

<sup>14</sup> Pierson, 371.

<sup>15</sup> Ibia

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The Oranges and Their Leading Business Men, Newark: Mercantile Publishing Co., 1890, 10.

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Building (1906) in Madison, NJ, as well as projects in New York City and Arizona. The firm was dissolved when Goldsmith left for the University of Kansas to establish a new school of architecture; Van Vleck retired in 1917.<sup>17</sup>

The renovations to the building that were designed by Van Vleck and Goldsmith included construction of a colossal pedimented portico at the main elevation, which served as the new, formal entrance to the building and necessitated the removal of a dormer window at the center of that elevation. In addition to the new portico, a new vestibule was created at the first floor to serve as the new primary entrance for the public (relocated from the ground floor); some interior spaces were reconfigured (in large part, spaces were made smaller through the addition of new partitions); restrooms were added on the third floor; and a masonry vault and stairhall/elevator and stairhall lobby were added at the center of the building. The stairhall lobby featured a floor light (glazed floor) at each level, which allowed light (entering from a skylight at the roof) to penetrate through each floor and bring natural light to the center of the building. The third floor assembly hall was converted to provide meeting space for the Common Council and sessions of the district court, and the basement was utilized by the police department (an arrangement that persists today).<sup>18</sup>

Much of the interior of the former Day Street Public School, now Orange City Hall, was renovated and modernized throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the original form of the building (with some modifications, most notably the removal of the central cupola) as designed by Huber and with alterations by Van Vleck & Goldsmith, remains.

#### AN EARLY PUBLIC SCHOOL

The former Day Street Public School building is representative of the early development of public schools, and particularly the early development of public high schools, in the State of New Jersey immediately following the Civil War, and it continues to be one of the best preserved examples.

The first high school opened in the city of Newark in 1838, closing in the 1840s and opening again in the 1850s. <sup>19</sup> Orange's Day Street Public School was one of only five public high schools in New Jersey by the 1870s. <sup>20</sup> As Robert Craig noted in "New Jersey's Public School Buildings; A Brief Field Guide," laws of 1867 and 1871 helped to shift the direction of public education in the state, establishing guidelines on attendance, length of the school year, and the ability of school districts to tax local

20 Green, 36.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> A biography of Goldwin Goldsmith can be found at Texas Archival Resources Online ( <a href="http://www.lib.utexas.edu">http://www.lib.utexas.edu</a>, accessed 6 May 2010).

<sup>18</sup> Pierson, 471.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> H.L. Green, Classrooms Struggle: A History of School Construction in New Jersey, forthcoming, 36.

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residents in order to finance school construction.<sup>21</sup> The Day Street Public School is typical of the initial wave of construction that followed the passage of the laws, the majority of which were both urban and architect-designed in the then-current architectural vogue, Second Empire.

Annual Reports produced by the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of New Jersey in the 1860s make evident the fact that there was still considerable competition from parochial and private schools at this time (at least six in Orange), but that a more efficient and less costly system of public education in which everyone participated was a significant goal. The Superintendent's Annual Report for Orange for the year 1861 notes, "It is proposed to make the public schools so efficient and desirable that the private schools will be dispensed with, almost, if not altogether."<sup>22</sup>

One year later, in fact, the Annual Report for Orange stated that "The number of school districts in the town of Orange is further diminished by the incorporation of several districts in the central part of the town into one. This measure was adopted with a view to a more systematic, thorough and economical instruction of the children. It is but the beginning of a much needed reform. It should embrace the whole town, bringing all the schools under one uniform supervision and control." <sup>23</sup>

It is also clear that quality architectural design had a role to play in promoting public schools. A portion of Orange's Annual Report for 1863 was devoted to decrying the condition of the public schools, labeling one of them "old, rickety, unsightly, ill arranged, uncomfortable, badly situated and altogether unfit for school purposes." The Report continued, "It is hoped that the time is not far distant when the people here will be so heartily ashamed of their present forlorn and shabby-looking school houses that they will generously step forward and tax themselves a sufficient sum to replace them with others that shall be an honor to the place and a blessing to future generations." The new Day Street Public School, completed only 6 years later in the fashionable vogue of the Second Empire style, was certainly intended to attract students and to help shift a long-held public perception that free education was only for the poor. Eldridge Mix, Superintendent of Schools in Orange, wrote in the 1870 Annual

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> R.W. Craig, "New Jersey's Public School Buildings; A Brief Field Guide," n.d. (Available through the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office), 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of New Jersey, for the Year 1861, Jersey City, Printed by John H. Lyon, 1862, 91.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of New Jersey, for the Year 1862, Trenton, Printed by David Naar, "True American" Office, 1863, 108.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of New Jersey, for the Year 1863, Trenton, Printed by David Naar, "True American" Office, 1864, 95.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of New Jersey, for the Year 1864, Jersey City, Printed by John H. Lyon, 1865, 125.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Statement of Significance

Report, that "Our schools are now in a flourishing condition...They stand well in the estimation of the public, and are receiving a fair share of patronage from our leading citizens."<sup>27</sup>

Other urban schools constructed at this time include Public School No.1 in Perth Amboy (1871) and Public School No. 2 in Paterson (1871); the Day Street Public School predates both of these examples slightly. Both of those schools remain and retain some of their original features, although each is now part of a larger complex of institutional buildings. The Woodbridge Public School in Woodbridge, NJ is just slightly later than the Day Street Public School, completed in 1876-77. An ornate example that incorporated elements of the Second Empire and Italianate styles, the Woodbridge Public School has been renovated extensively, with almost all of its original exterior detail removed.

Historian Howard Green points out in his forthcoming study on New Jersey Schools that in relatively sharp contrast with urban schools like the Day Street Public School, those in more rural areas like Stockton's District School 98 (James Bird, 1872), were considerably smaller and less architecturally distinctive, maintaining the tradition of one- and two-room structures. <sup>28</sup>

As Green states, "Fierce battles loomed over taxation and other issues, but as substantial schoolhouses became sources of community pride in ever more municipalities, opponents of the very concept of public schools took a back seat. Built to last, schools....were considerable investments, which suggest that residents understood how important schooling would be in the emerging urban-industrial social order." <sup>29</sup>Orange was a clear leader in this trend, and its Day Street Public School has survived with a high degree of integrity, and although it has not served an educational function in nearly 100 years, its presence within the City has continued to be central.

29 Green, 39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, for the School Year Ending August 31, 1869, Trenton, Printed at the True American Office, 1870, 108. A portion of the report is devoted to the valuation of school houses. The report notes that of the 1,381 public schools in the state, only 30 of those were valued at over \$20,000; one of those, as shown in the table provided in the report, was the new public school in Orange, the Day Street Public School (Annual Report, 14, 15.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> H.L. Green, Classrooms Struggle: A History of School Construction in New Jersey, forthcoming, 35.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Bibliography

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Section 9 Page 2

Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Bibliography

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 3

Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Bibliography

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Day Street Public School		Essex Coun		
Name of Property	(	County and S	State	
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of property Less than one acre				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
Zone Easting Northing	Zone 4	Easting continuation	Northing sheet	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Meredith Arms Bzdak and Nicole McKairnes, Archit	tectural His	torians		
organization Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects, LLC		date	April 2011	
street & number 200 Forrestal Road		telephone	609-452-17	77
city or town Princeton	state		zip code	08540
Additional Documentation				
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having			erous resources.	
Photographs	219, 201		543334565545	
Representative black and white photographs of the prop	perty.			
Additional items Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)				
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Property Owner				
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this from to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Verbal Boundary Description

#### **Boundary Description**

The Day Street Public School is located in the City of the Township of Orange, Essex County, New Jersey, at 29 North Day Street, Block 2001, Lot 37. It is bordered at the east by Day Street and at the west by Essex Avenue. The boundary lines of the nominated property follow the property lines as indicated on the 2002 City of Orange Township Tax Map.

#### **Boundary Justification**

Boundary lines follow legally recorded property lines.

#### Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs:

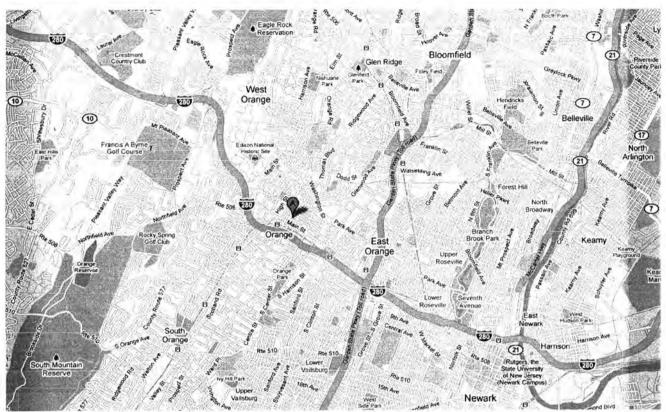
#### 5. Location of Digital Files: New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

Photo 12 Detail view of tin ceilings found in server room at Ground Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Floor.  Photo 13 Overall view of Division of Recreational Services at Ground Floor.  Photo 14 First floor hallway facing west. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Floor.  Photo 15 World War II Memorial behind reception desk at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November November Floor.  Photo 16 Overall view of Tax and Water Billing office at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November November Floor.	er 6, 2009 er 6, 2009 er 6, 2009 er 6, 2009 er 6, 2009 24, 2009
Photo 3 View of property facing east, showing close proximity to adjacent building.  Photo 4 West elevation of Day Street Public School. Richard Lane November Photo 5 South Elevation of Day Street Public School. Richard Lane November Photo 6 Detail view of columns and pediment facing west. Richard Lane November Photo 7 Detail view of pediment from southeast corner. Nicole McKairnes November Photo 8 Detail view of southeast corner of mansard roof. Nicole McKairnes November Photo 9 Detail view of northeast corner of front façade. Nicole McKairnes November Photo 10 Ground level entrance at east elevation currently used as main entrance.  Photo 11 Interior entrance hall at Ground Floor facing west. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 12 Detail view of tin ceilings found in server room at Ground Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 13 Overall view of Division of Recreational Services at Ground Floor.  Photo 14 First floor hallway facing west. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 15 World War II Memorial behind reception desk at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 16 Overall view of Tax and Water Billing office at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 16 Overall view of Tax and Water Billing office at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 16 Overall view of Tax and Water Billing office at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 16 Overall view of Tax and Water Billing office at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 16 Overall view of Tax and Water Billing office at First Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November Photo 16 Overall view of Tax and Water Billing office at First Floor.	er 6, 2009 er 6, 2009 er 6, 2009 er 6, 2009 24, 2009
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Photo 17 View of hallway at Second Floor facing west. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November	т 24, 2009
Photo 18 View of storage room in Health Department. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November	г 24, 2009
Photo 19 View of City Clerk's office. Richard Lane November	r 6, 2009
Photo 20 View of original historic vault. Richard Lane November	r 6, 2009
Photo 21 Entrance to Department of Public Works showing 1913 entry way.  Meredith Arms-Bzdak November way.	r 24, 2009
Photo 22 View of stairwell at the Second Floor of the 1978 addition. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November	r 24, 2009
Photo 23 Detail view of remaining skylight found behind the acoustical Meredith Arms-Bzdak November ceiling at the Third Floor hallway.	т 24, 2009
Photo 24 Detail view of doors leading to Council Chambers. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November	
Photo 25 Overall view of Council Chambers facing south. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November	r 24, 2009

#### Day Street Public School Essex County, New Jersey Additional Documentation

Photo 26 Ramped hallway at Third Floor facing south. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November 24, 2009

Photo 27 Overall view of Housing/Relocation Department at Third Floor. Meredith Arms-Bzdak November 24, 2009



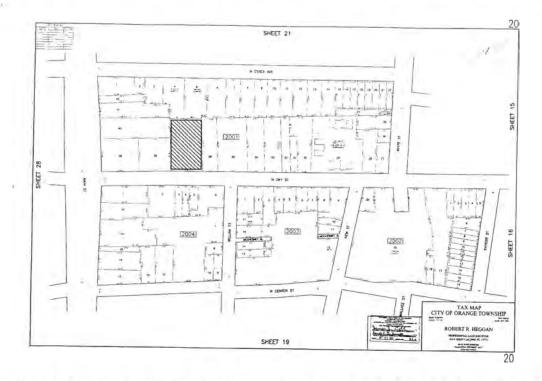
Location of Day Street Public School (now Orange City Hall) within northern New Jersey.



Location of Day Street Public School (now Orange City Hall) within the City of Orange Township.



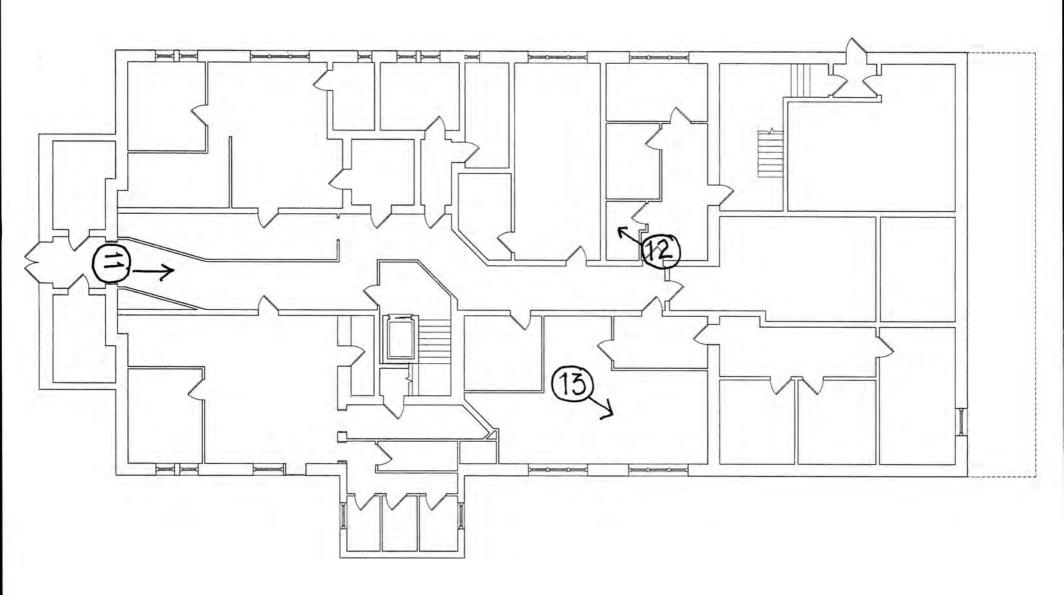
Birdseye view of former Day Street Public School. (Source: http://www.bing.com/maps/)



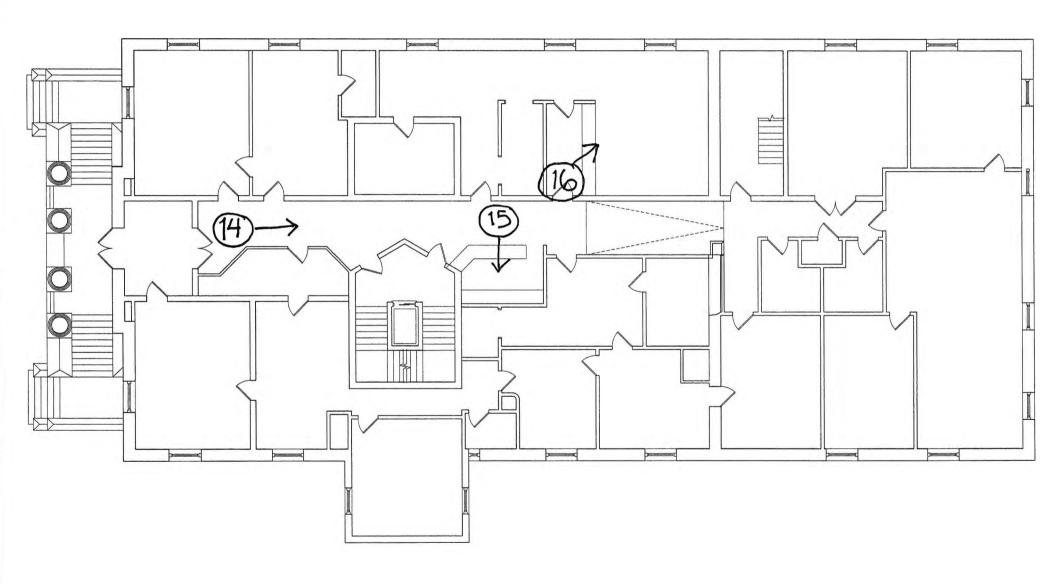
City of Orange Township Tax Map (Oct. 2002); Day Street Public School is located at Block 2001, Lot 37 (identified by hatch marks).



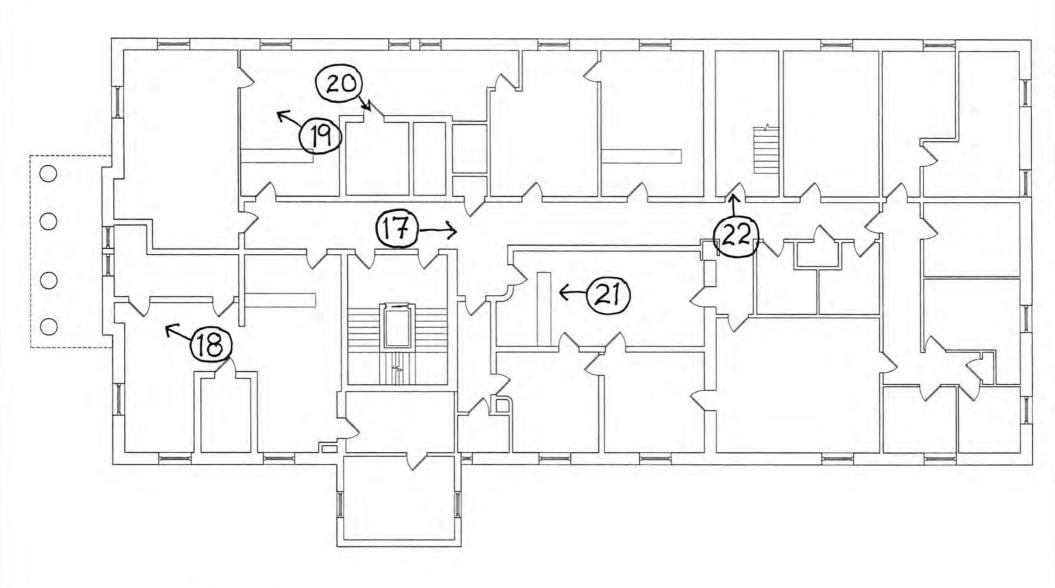




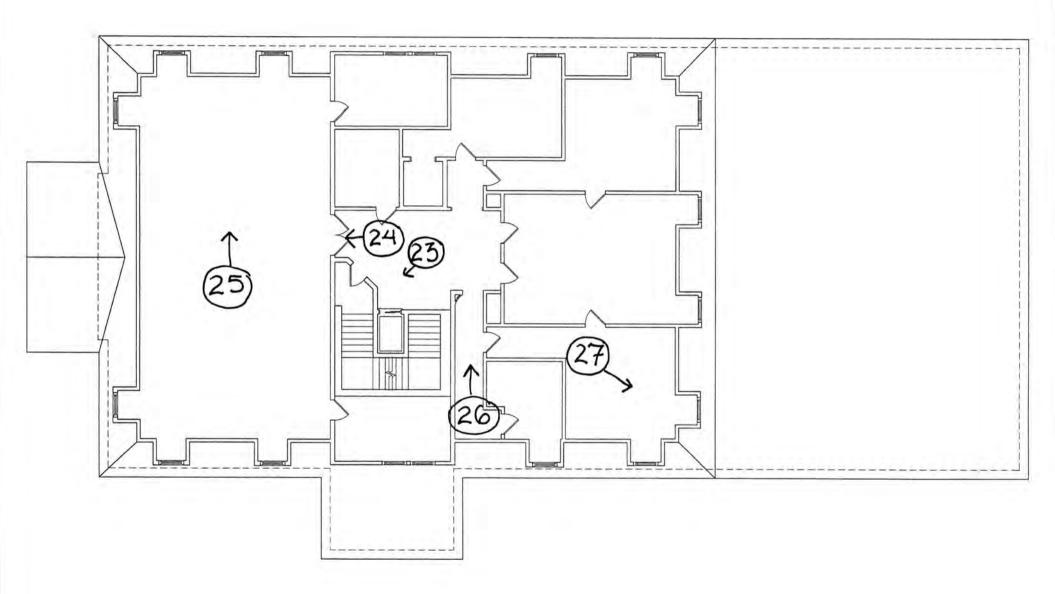
BASEMENT PLAN



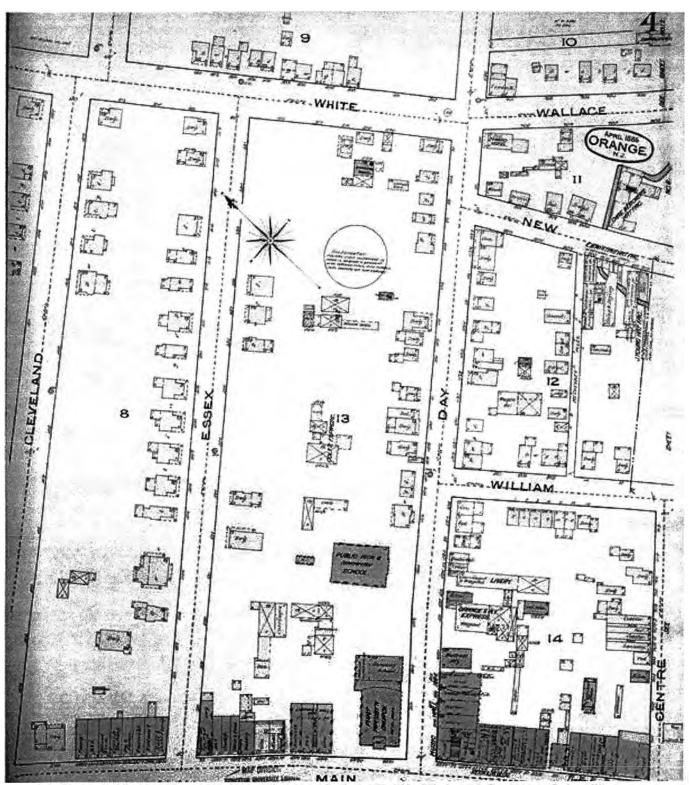
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

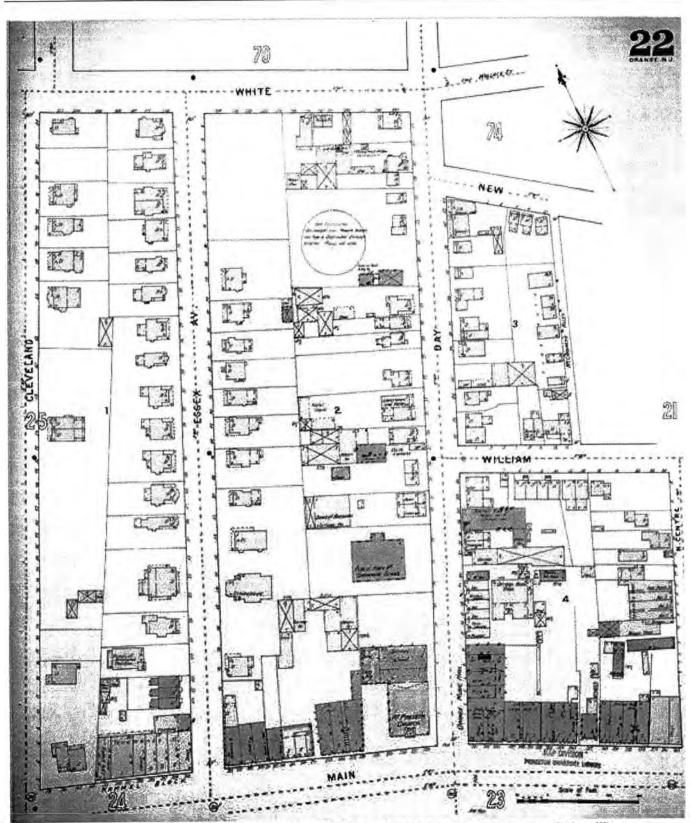


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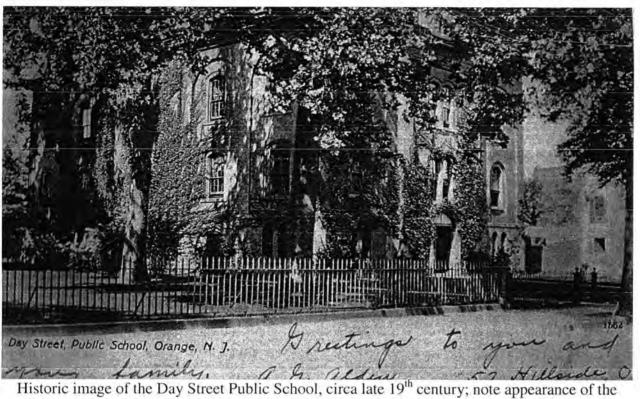


Location of Day Street Public School (identified as "Public High and Grammar School").

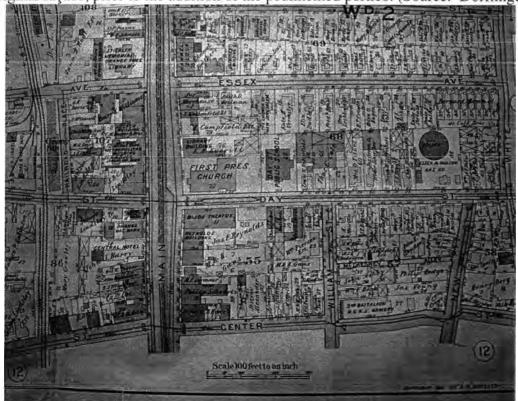
(Sanborn, 1885.)



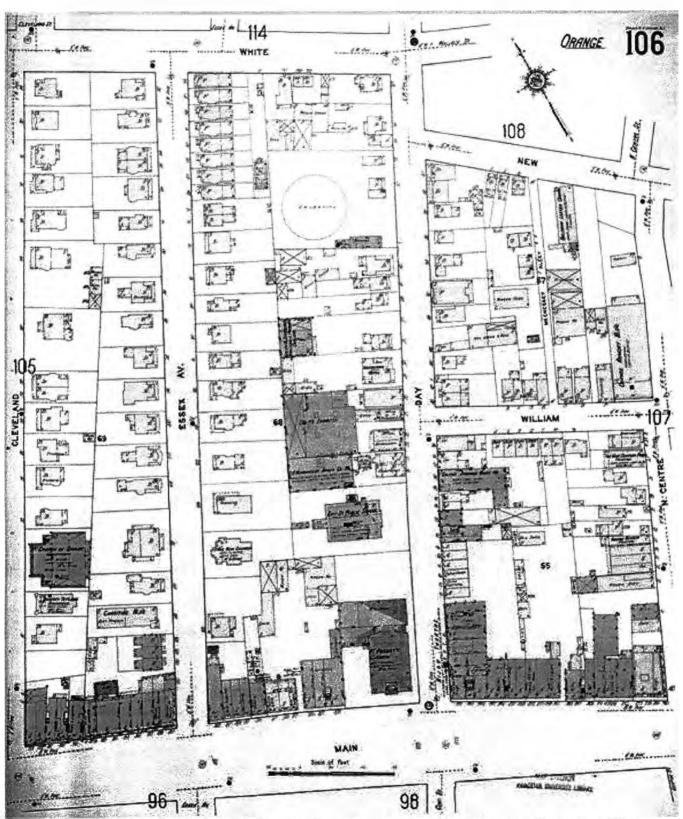
Location of Day Street Public School (identified as "Public High and Grammar School"). (Sanborn, 1895.)



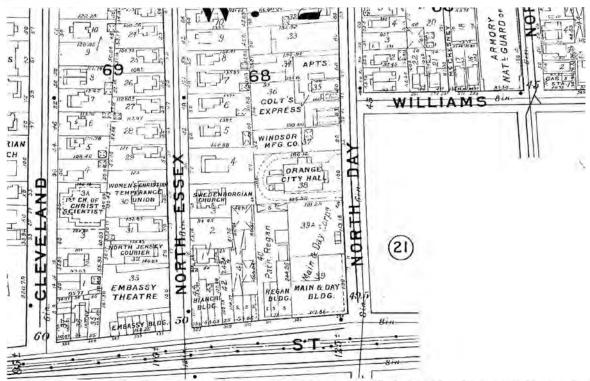
original façade, prior to the addition of the pedimented portico. (Source: Dorflinger)



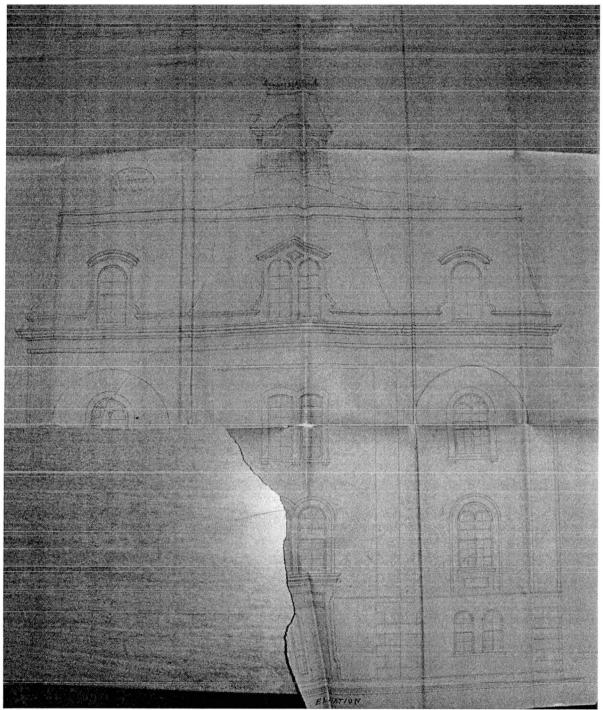
The Day Street Public School is shown on a 1911 Atlas; note its proximity to other key buildings in the City, including the Library and Railroad Station. (A.H. Mueller, Atlas of the Oranges, 1911, Plate 11.)



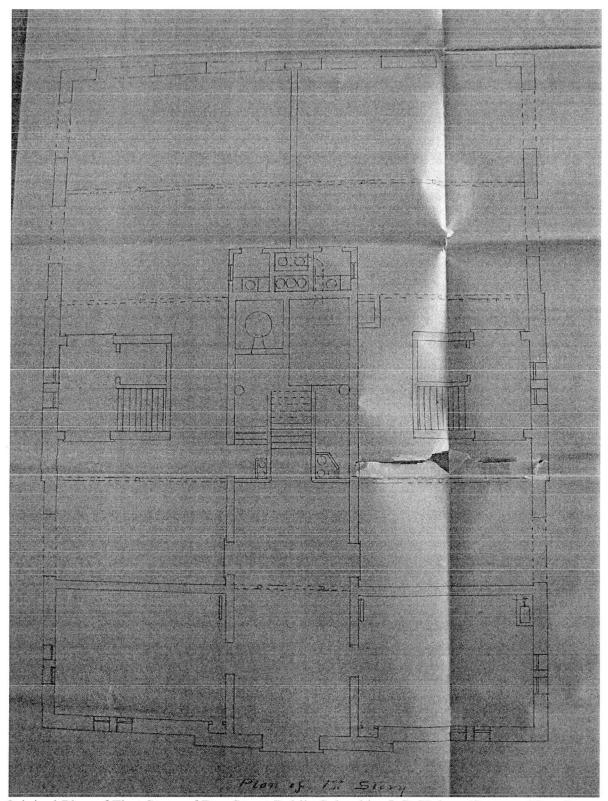
Location of Day Street Public School (identified as "Day Street Public School"). (Sanborn, 1912.)



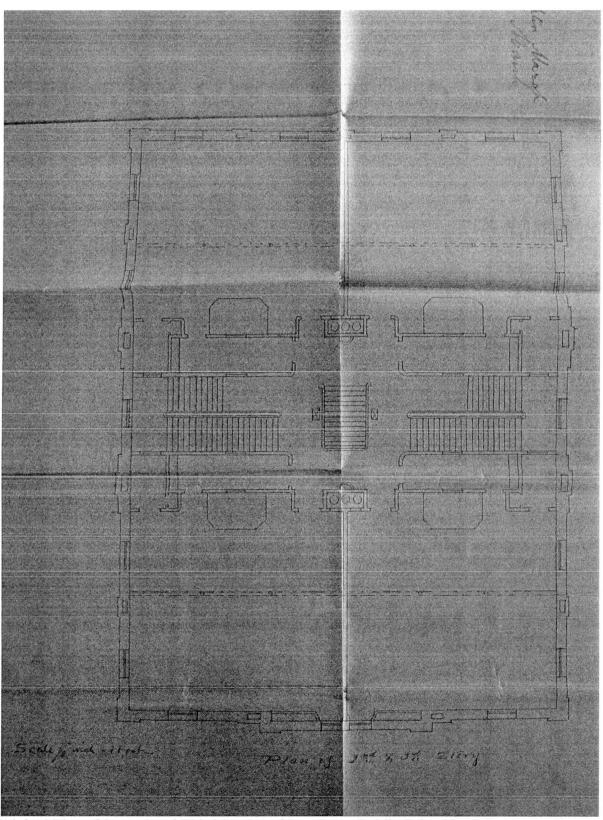
Day Street Public School (by this time Orange City Hall) featured a driveway that encircled the building in the mid-1900s. (Source: Atlas of Essex County 1932 - East Orange - West Orange. Philadelphia, PA: Franklin Survey Company, 1932.)



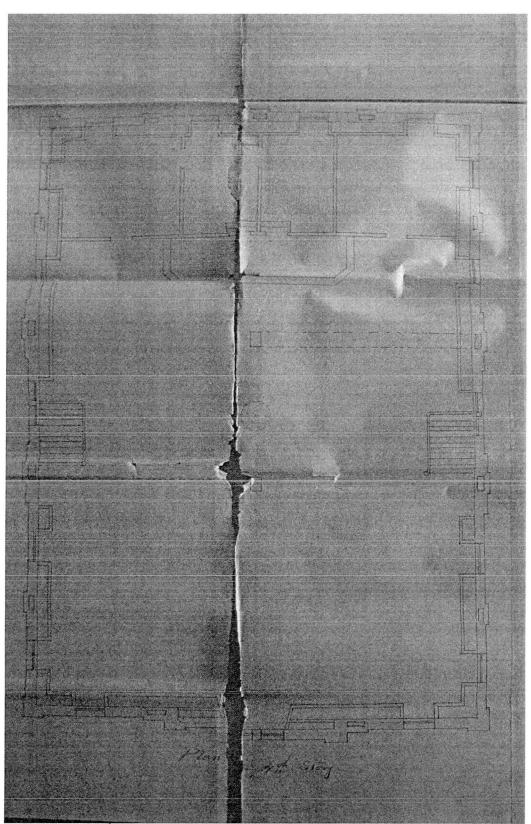
Original Elevation Drawing for Day Street Public School by J. P. Huber. (Source: New Jersey Historical Society.)



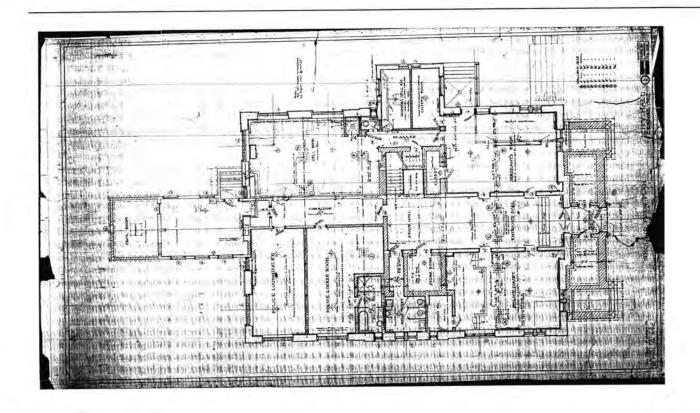
Original Plan of First Story of Day Street Public School by J. P. Huber. (Source: New Jersey Historical Society.)

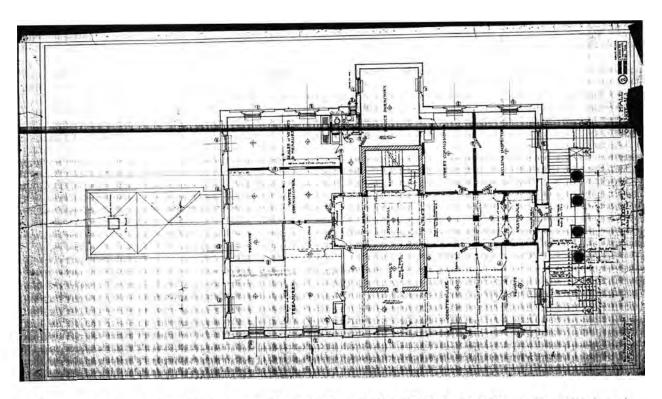


Original Plan of Second and Third Stories of Day Street Public School by J. P. Huber. (Source: New Jersey Historical Society.)

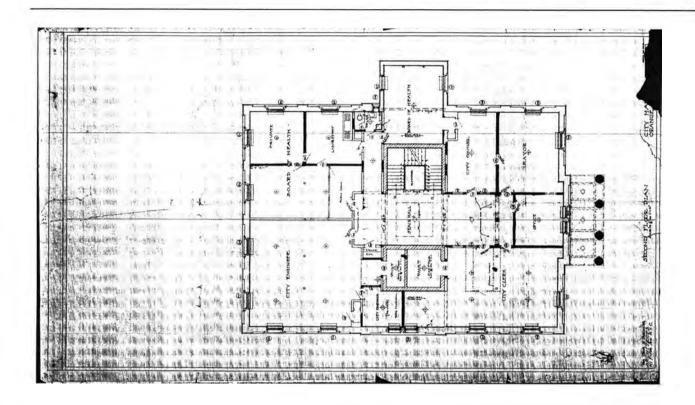


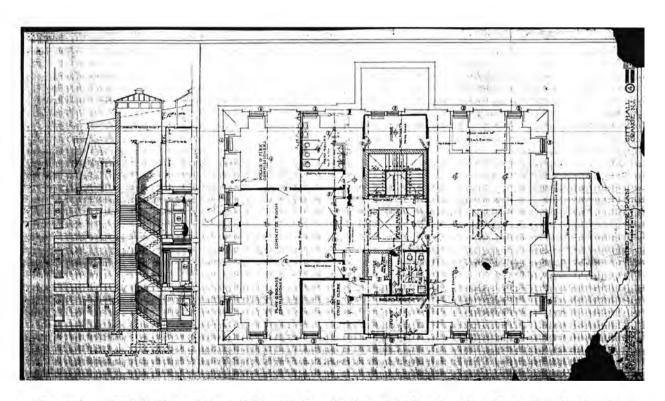
Original Plan of Attic (4<sup>th</sup>) Story of Day Street Public School by J. P. Huber. (Source: New Jersey Historical Society)



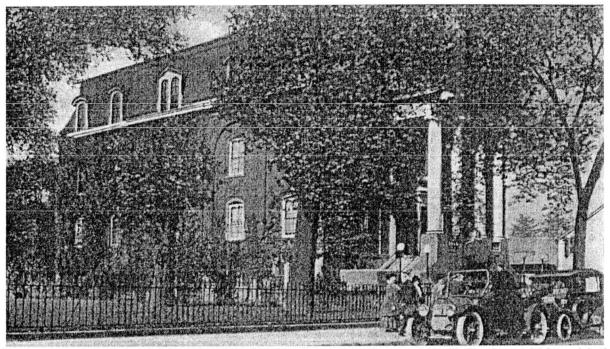


Basement (Ground) and First Floor Plans of Orange City Hall dated 1913 by Van Vleck and Goldsmith Architects. (Source: City of Orange Township.)





Second and Third Floor Plans of Orange City Hall dated 1913 by Van Vleck and Goldsmith Architects. (Source: City of Orange Township.)



Day Street Public School following its adaption for use as Orange City Hall, circa 1920s, with the addition of a pedimented portico. (Source: Dorflinger.)

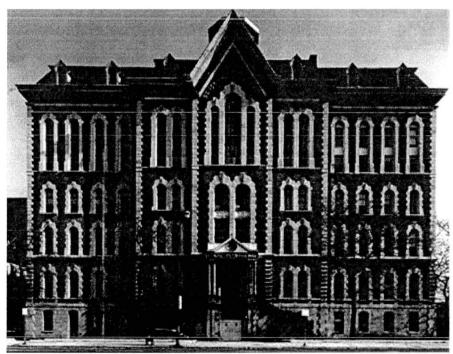
Circa 1950s image of City Hall, showing removal of earlier fence and trees, and inclusion of new landscaping. (Source: Dorflinger)



Historic aerial photograph showing Day Street Public School in 1966 with circular drive and angled parking at the south (Source: <a href="www.historicaerials.com">www.historicaerials.com</a>).

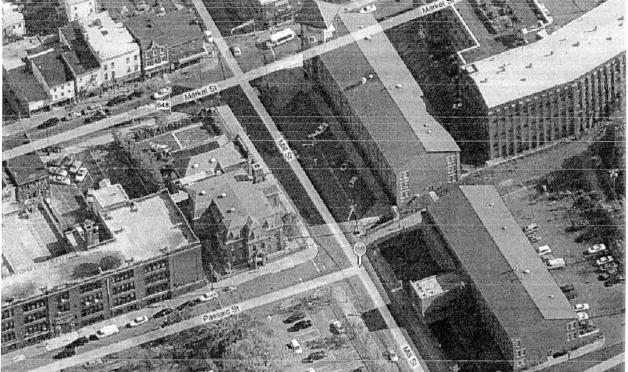


John P. Huber, Architect, Anthony Reckless Estate (Red Bank Women's Club), 1870, Red Bank, NJ. (Source: flickr.com/photos/flickr4jazz/3970057706/)

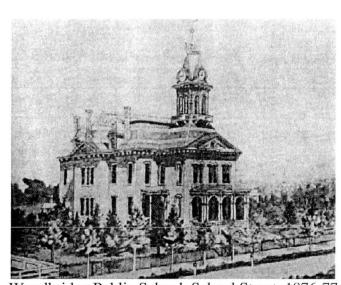


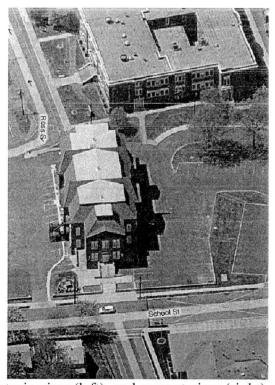
St. Ignatius College Prep Building, Chicago, Illinois, west addition by John P. Huber, 1874 (Source: http://www.american-architecture.info/USA/CHICAGO/CHIC-NW/CHIC-NW-018.htm)

not 2

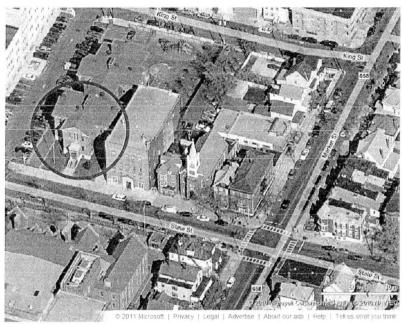


Former Public School No. 2, Paterson, NJ (1871). (Source: www.bing.com)

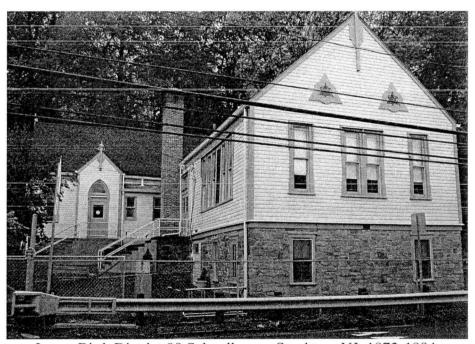




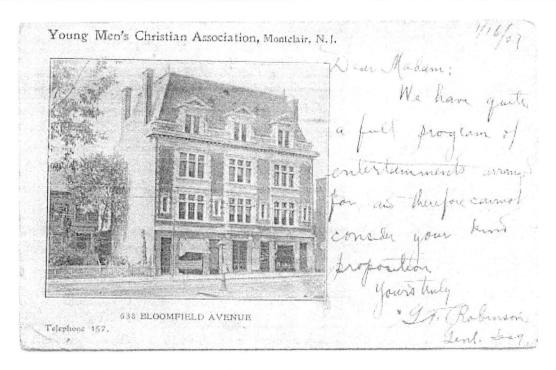
Woodbridge Public School, School Street, 1876-77; historic view (left), and current view (right).



Public School No. 1, State Street, Perth Amboy, 1871, current view (circled).



James Bird, District 98 Schoolhouse, Stockton, NJ, 1872-1884.



Van Vleck & Goldsmith, YMCA, Montclair, NJ. (Source: www.firstbaptistbloomfield.org/montclair2.htm)



Van Vleck & Goldsmith, 1026 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY (Source: www.bridgeandtunnelclub.com/.../index.htm

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION PROPERTY Day Street Public School NAME: MULTIPLE NAME: STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Essex DATE RECEIVED: 7/13/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/10/12 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/27/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/29/12 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000568 REASONS FOR REVIEW: APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPT RETURN ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: RECOM. / CRITERI REVIEWER DISCIPLINE TELEPHONE DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the

nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

























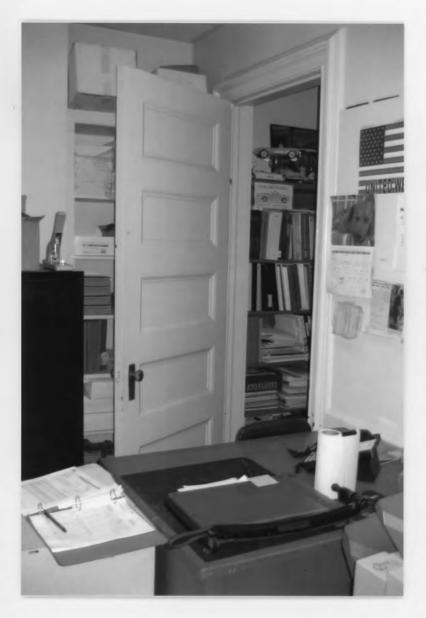
































## State of New Jersey

HPO Review # 11-0127-4
RECEIVED HPO-F2012-235

JUL 1 3 2012

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLANER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CHRIS CHRISTIE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Office of the Assistant Commissioner

BOB MARTIN COMMISSIONER

GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor Office of the Assistant Commissioner
MAIL CODE 501-03A
PO Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
609-292-3541/Fax: 609-984-0836

June 28, 2012

Mr. Paul Loether, Chief National Register of Historic Places National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am pleased to submit the nomination for the Day Street Public School/Orange City Hall, City of Orange, Essex County, New Jersey, for National Register of Historic Places consideration.

This nomination received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with the regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420 or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Rich Borrnazian Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer