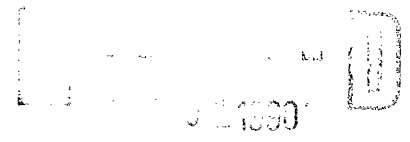


1715

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Naaman's Creek School
other names/site number District School Number 1; Claymont School; Claymont Public Library;
N-1227

2. Location

street & number Philadelphia Pike and Darley Road not for publication
city, town Claymont, Brandywine Creek vicinity
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19703

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] SHPO 9/28/90
Signature of certifying official Date
De Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 11/15/90
 See continuation sheet. _____
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. _____
 determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
 removed from the National Register. _____
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Continuation Sheet**

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets / does not meet the National Register criteria.



DENNIS E. GREENHOUSE
County Executive
New Castle County
Delaware

3-15-90

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

Other; one-room school

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Stone/Granite

Wood/Single

roof Asphalt

other Brick Chimney

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

Naaman's Creek School is a two-room, stone schoolhouse built in two main sections that are dated circa 1805 and 1905. The school is located on its original parcel at the west corner of Philadelphia Pike (U. S. Route 13) and Darley Road, approximately one and a quarter miles south of the Pennsylvania State Line in the northeast corner of Brandywine Hundred.

The front of the building (southeast elevation) faces Philadelphia Pike, which functioned as a toll road in the nineteenth century. The northeast side of the building fronts on Darley Road and directly across that road is the circa 1840's F.O.C. Darley House (NR; N-448). According to nineteenth century atlases, Darley Road was created some time between 1868 and 1881 from an existing farm lane. The southwest side of the property borders on a gas station, and the rear (northwest) property line abuts a small, strip shopping center.

The school maintains a high level of design integrity from the 1905 period when the interior of the original section was remodeled and a new wing was added. The earlier section is clearly discernible, however. In 1986, it was discovered that the building had structural deficiencies which caused a deflection of the roof and walls. The roof has been repaired without changing its form, and the deflection is being remedied by a system of cables and turnbuckles.

Overall, the school gives the appearance of a pair of one story, gable-front buildings joined at the sidewalls and held under a common roof that is double gabled at the front and pyramidal at the rear. Both wings are constructed with a locally quarried dark grey stone known as Brandywine granite. The stonework on the new wing is a close match to the original, exhibiting the same roughly planed surface on the stones and uncoursed stacking. The facades of both wings are identical in proportion and fenestration. However, the facade of the newer wing is recessed about eight feet while its gable roof extends forward to the plane of the other facade, creating an open porch.

The older (northeastern) wing displays a circular marble stone in its front gable which is inscribed: "N^o 1227 Schoolhouse Founded 1805." Whether this building was actually constructed in 1805 is, as yet,

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

uncertain. A lack of clear documentation and the curious omission of the school from a couple of nineteenth century maps of the area raises a question about the meaning of the datestone. The earliest mapped reference to a schoolhouse at this site appears on the Rea and Price map of 1849, which designates the property as "S.H.1". Henry Heald's Map of the Road of New Castle County, published in 1820, does not indicate a schoolhouse on the site, even though many early Delaware schools are shown on this map. Despite these two earlier references, the schoolhouse, itself, does not appear on Beer's Atlas of 1868, although the outlines of "District No. 1" are delineated in the Claymont area. Later maps such as the 1881 Hopkins map and the Baist Atlas of 1893 show Naaman's Creek School in the approximate location as the Rea and Price map. The words "Founded 1805" may commemorate the 1805 deed in which the land was given for use as a school, rather than describe a date of construction. This datestone stands in contrast to the clearly worded wooden plaque in the gable of the newer wing, which reads: "District School No. 1 remodeled and built 1905." It is documented in the minutes of the school voters of School District No. 1 that William S. Bird, Contractor and Builder was paid \$1,980.00 out of the school district fund on May 31, 1905.

On the original wing the facade wall, the northeast side wall, and a portion of the southwest side wall remain while the rear wall and most of the southwest side wall were removed to accommodate the 1905 expansion. The stone facade of this older section is more finely worked than the other walls on either wing. The stones are a consistent dark grey hue rather than the mixed grey and brown used on the other elevations, and the stones are laid semi-coursed, whereas on other sides the stones are laid randomly. The facade is symmetrically arranged with a center door and a two-over-two sash window on either side. Plain narrow boards create the doorframe. Two oblong stones function as the lintel. The door itself is a steel replacement. The window surrounds have an applied molding.

The original wing is the only section of the building with a basement. The basement is entered by means of a bulkhead on the southwest side. The foundation walls are the same type of stone construction as the above-ground walls. The floor is dirt. It is apparent that the joists supporting the floor above are replacements that most likely date to the 1905 remodeling. The length of the basement appears to coincide with a seam in the stonework of the

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

exterior northeast side wall, indicating that the 1905 addition expanded the length and the width of the original building.

The 1905 addition more than doubled the size of the original structure by lengthening it ten feet on its northwest end (rear) and by abutting a duplicate stone structure to the southwest side. All of the 1905 expansion is built above a crawl space. This newer wing has the same three-bay facade arrangement as the original wing, but with slight differences in detail. The door (also a steel replacement) is topped by a transom light and wooden lintel. The two-over-two sash windows on either side are longer than those on the facade of the original wing. A porch is formed by the overhang of the facade gable which is supported by three square, wooden posts. The surface of the porch gable is covered with square wooden shingles. The porch floor rests on a stone foundation.

The two side walls of the building both have eight 1/1 sash windows. On the northeast wall, five of the eight windows are set in a connected row. On the southwest wall, six of the windows are connected. Across the rear of both wings are two shed-roofed, frame additions containing a large closet, the bathroom, and an extra room of unknown function. Both wings are sheathed with German siding.

The roof is a combination of forms. At the front, each of the two wings has a gable roof of equal slope. At the middle of the building, the two gables merge into a truncated pyramidal roof. The gables have an overhanging verge with a molded edge while the side and rear cornice areas expose the rafter ends. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. An exterior chimney interrupts the northeast edge of the roof. Below the cornice the chimney is stone; above, it is brick.

On the interior, there is no partition wall between the two main wings, although there is evidence that a moveable wall once provided some means of separating the classes into two groups. Most of the interior appointments date to the 1905 rebuilding period. A beaded vertical board wainscoat, 4 feet 1 inch high, borders each of the walls. The upper level walls and the ceiling are formed with cut lath and plaster. The original ceiling is quite high, extending about half way up into the sloping roof area. Some ornate, round metal ventilators pierce the sloping areas of the ceiling. A modern dropped ceiling was installed but it has mostly been removed. In both wings, the window reveals are 17 inches deep and slightly splayed. The two-and-one-quarter inch tongue and groove flooring is continuous between wings. In the east corner of the original wing, a sink was installed during a later period. Adjacent to the sink is a five-panel wooden door that

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

leads to a vestibule area at the front of the building. It appears this partition was made during the 1905 rebuilding because the finished details in the vestibule are consistent with the rest of the building. At the western end of the vestibule is a shelved closet with two pairs of doors. This is probably the "double inside closet" that William S. Bird was paid \$60.00 to build in August 1907. (Described in school district records). Also in 1907, E. B. Grubb was hired to install a steam heating plant at the cost of \$275.00. However, heat is currently provided by baseboard registers.

Overall, Naaman's Creek School is a well-preserved building exhibiting features from its early nineteenth century beginnings to its early twentieth century expansion.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance

1805-1925

Significant Dates

1805

1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

William S. Bird, Contractor and Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

Naaman's Creek School is significant under Criterion A as a property that reveals much about the development and the ultimate demise of the free rural school system in New Castle County. Its period of operation lasted 120 years, from 1805 through 1925 when the school was closed and a centralized school district was created. Through the course of its existence, it can be shown how Naaman's Creek School operated in response to the wants of the community, to legislative dictates, and to the dynamics of a community undergoing rapid transition from a rural to an industrial economy. The building's significance under education continues after the school closed. It remained a focal point in the community due to the efforts of the Women's Club of Claymont in establishing and maintaining a library beginning in 1929. Naaman's Creek School is also significant under Criterion C for representing the type of one room school that was common in nineteenth century New Castle County, and in exhibiting the physical changes made in the early twentieth century as the local school commission attempted to accommodate a rapidly growing population.

The earliest legislative provision for public school education occurred in 1796 when a "school fund" was created for public education from taxes on marriage and tavern licenses. However, the school fund was allowed to accumulate until 1817 when legislation was passed permitting disbursements for "the education of poor children." Due to its identification as a "pauper" system of education, this legislation proved unpopular and ineffective.

The Free School Act of 1829, authored by Judge Willard Hall, provided the outline of a public school system until the reforms embodied in the School Code of 1919 and the revisions of 1921. The 1829 legislation provided for the right of local school districts to raise taxes for education free to all white children and for matching funds to be provided from the school.

See continuation sheet

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

As a result of the Free School Act of 1829, a predominantly rural system of small districts, characterized by one-room schoolhouses, evolved and prevailed in the State of Delaware into the twentieth century. However, even in the years immediately following the passage of the 1829 law, a major deficiency emerged which stemmed from the free nature of the districts' schools. The raising of local taxes to support each district's school was left to the discretion of the school voters in each district who were free to vote not to raise taxes at all. As a result, children in poorer districts were often deprived of an education since voters in these districts were less likely to vote to raise taxes. The deficiency was addressed in 1861 when the state legislature required that local school districts levy a minimum tax for education and allowed voters the option to raise taxes above the minimum.

The period between 1861 and 1921 may be characterized as a period of tension between those who favored the decentralized "free" school public school system established after the 1829 law, and those who favored greater centralization and increased state responsibility for the public school system. In 1875, a number of reforms were enacted including provision for an appointed State Superintendent of Education, and a State Board of Education. However, in 1887, the position of State Superintendent was abolished and County Superintendents, who also served on the State Board of Education, were reinstated.

Article Ten, of the new State Constitution of 1897, made state support of education mandatory, directing the payment of at least \$100,000.00 of state funds annually. Other reforms of the 1891 to 1919 period include provision for: free textbooks (1891), state funds for negroes on an equal basis with whites (1898), a compulsory attendance (1907), and a State Commissioner of Education (1913).

Although perhaps adequate for the educational needs of a predominantly rural state for most of the nineteenth century, the "free school" system proved inadequate in the early twentieth century when increased population, industrialization, and the mobilization effort of World War I combined to create demands for a better educated work force. Even prior to the twentieth century, incorporated towns and cities found the free public school system inadequate. By 1852, Wilmington had eliminated the system of separate local school districts and operated a unified system under a separate Board of Education. In 1879, legislation was enacted which exempted areas such as Wilmington from control of the State Superintendent and the Board of Education.

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

By 1905, official recognition was given to Wilmington's special status when the General Assembly stipulated that Wilmington constituted a special school district with its own Board of Education.

In 1917, an educational commission was appointed to survey conditions in the state's public schools and to make recommendations for a more effective public school system. By 1919, the reform movement led by Pierre S. du Pont and the Service Citizens of Delaware helped ensure passage of the New School Code. Among the provisions of this code were: the establishment of special school districts, centralization of control of education under County Boards of Education with powers to levy taxes, the abolition of local Boards of Education and compulsory attendance for 180 days. In 1921, the New School Code was revised with the elimination of the County Boards of Education and the State Board of Education's assumption of control of budgeting and supervision of instruction, and the creation of the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction as chief school official for the State of Delaware.

The early years of Naaman's Creek School coincided with the early history of education in Delaware. The building may have been constructed as early as 1805, substantially predating the 1829 Free School Law. The school was built on a half acre of ground donated by John Dickinson, signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In 1805, Dickinson sold the land to Thomas Robinson, Amer Grubb, James Grubb, Thomas Gray and William Cloud of Brandywine Hundred for five cents, provided that they serve as trustees of a school to be erected on the site.

Despite the designation of Naaman's Creek School as "Schoolhouse No. 1" on early maps, it would be inaccurate to assume that it was the first public school established under the Free School Act of 1829. In each of the three counties, the earliest school districts were assigned in numerical order from a north to south direction as shown on Beers' 1868 Atlas. When later school districts were subdivided, they were assigned higher numbers such as School District No. 73 in Brandywine Hundred. Therefore, it is likely that Naaman's Creek School (School District No.1) was one of the earliest public schools under the Free School Act of 1829.

Unfortunately, there is a limited amount of information about the school at Naaman's Creek for most of the nineteenth century. J. Thomas Scharf, in his History of Delaware 1609 -- 1888, mentions a school in the vicinity. "The services of the Episcopal Church were held

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

in this locality as early as 1843, the Rev. Alfred Lee, D.D., Bishop of Delaware, preaching at the school-house at Naaman's Creek." (Scharf. Vol. II, P. 912). Whether the schoolhouse functioned then as a public school, a church-affiliated school, or solely as a church, cannot be determined at the present time.

Minutes of the annual school district meetings from 1885--1900 reveal the operation of a typical rural, one-room school established under the guidelines of the 1829 Free School Law. As required by the 1829 law, meetings of the school district voters were held at a specified date and time to report on the operation of the school during the previous year. The three-man school committee (in accordance with the 1829 law) "would present a report" detailing the number of months the school was in session, the teacher's salary, and the highest number of scholars," (a figure which probably was higher than daily attendance records, due to the rural location of the school). The "school voters," as specified by the 1829 law, voted at the annual meeting on an amount to be taxed for the upcoming year. The record of the minutes of the annual meetings were preceded by a budget which listed the major expenditures and sources of income for the previous year. Each budget was signed by an auditor, as prescribed by the 1829 law.

As described in the minutes from 1885 to 1900, Naaman's Creek School operated as a one-room schoolhouse with a term which typically extended for nine or ten months of the year with a two or three month vacation in the summer. School District No. 1 experienced a high teacher turnover, employing at least nine teachers between 1885-1900. Perhaps turnover was related to the low monthly salaries of \$35.00 to \$40.00 monthly. Taxes levied by the school voters ranged from \$300.00 in 1885 and 1886, to between \$125.00 to \$175.00 in the years 1887--1892, to a low of \$100.00 in 1893, and between \$175.00 in 1894 to \$300.00 in 1900. Typical expenditures listed in the budget detailed teachers' monthly salaries, moneys for maintenance, cleaning and repair of the school and "sundries." Expenses for books and other teaching aids became more detailed and numerous in the late 1890's. School enrollment varied from 22 males and 25 females in 1885, to a low of 26 students in 1890, to a high enrollment of 32 males and 33 females for the 1899-1900 school year - the last year enrollment figures were reported in the minutes. In fact, enrollment rose steadily from 1894 when 40 children attended to 1900 when 65 children enrolled.

Apparently, the increasing population pressures and the condition of the schoolhouse motivated the school voters at their June 16, 1903

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meeting to consider building a new schoolhouse, "There being no further business before the meeting, it, on motion, adjourned to meet on the 20th inst. to consider rebuilding, remodeling, or, building a new school house." (Minutes, p. 80). At the next annual meeting, "It was resolved that the sum of Two Thousand Dollars be raised in this District for the purpose of providing a new school building, or alterations to the present school building." (Minutes, p. 84). By May 31, 1905, \$1,980.00 was disbursed to William S. Bird, contractor and builder, as reflected in the school budget. Although the committee had considered building a new school, apparently, the decision was made to rebuild the old school.

Despite the rebuilding of the school which, apparently, doubled its original size in 1905, Naaman's Creek School continued to operate as a one-room, one-teacher school. The annual budgets for the 1904-1905 through the 1912-1913 school years continued to list monthly salaries for one teacher only. This changed in the school year, 1914-1915 when two teachers: Mabel Donovan and Zeita Davis were listed in the Educational Directory for the State of Delaware as teachers at District No. 1, Naaman's Creek School in Claymont, Delaware. The 1915-1916 Directory lists Elizabeth Bigger as teacher for grades V-VIII and Bertha Jones as teacher for grades I-IV. The 1915-1916 Directory also lists enrollment figures for each school. For School District No. 1, the figures are as follows: 11 boys and 19 girls in grades III (probably through VIII) and 21 boys and 15 girls in grades I through IV. The Educational Directories for each year continue to list a two-teacher school at Naaman's Creek School, District No. I. under Rural Schools until 1918-1919 when four teachers are listed as teaching in School District No. I, Claymont. The school building location of each teacher is not specified, although it is apparent by this time more than one school was operating in the district.

The 1915-1916 Educational Directory for the State of Delaware offers the most complete picture of Naaman's Creek School in comparison to other public schools in the state, including schools in Wilmington, other incorporated towns, other rural districts in New Castle County and rural districts in Kent and Sussex Counties. In terms of offering a complete education from the early elementary years through high schools, students in the separate Wilmington school district seemed to benefit. Each elementary school offered at least one class per grade. In the upper elementary grades, many schools offered special teachers such as

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

sewing and music. In addition, Wilmington offered a complete high school program through grade twelve. Some Schools in incorporated towns

such as Newark offered one teacher per grade as well as a high school program through grade twelve. Other incorporated districts such as Alexis I. du Pont offered their students combined grades (such as grades one and two) through grade eleven.

Many rural schools in New Castle County such as School District #27 (Mt. Airy, N-3864, NR) still operated as one-teacher schools from grades one to eight, while others combined grades one-two, three-four, five-seven and eight-ten in nearby School District No. 2. (Mount Pleasant, N-1208). Typical rural school districts in both Kent and Sussex Counties still consisted of rural one-teacher schools offering education in grades one to seventh or eighth grades.

The apparent inequity of education available to students in small rural school districts compared to the advantages offered by schools in incorporated towns and cities impelled reformers in the post-World War I years to press for a more unified state public school system. As previously mentioned, the New School Code was passed in 1919. The effects of this legislation were almost immediately felt in School District No. I.

In the Educational Directory for 1919-1920, the Claymont School District is listed as a Special District in accordance with the changes in the 1919 School Codes. In this newly-formed district, there were four schools and a new Superintendent. Three teachers served at the Overlook School, (N-12,276), two at Claymont School (presumably Naaman's Creek School); two at Worth School; and two at the National Aniline School (See N-12,130).

The Overlook, Worth and National Aniline Schools were apparently established during the war years when workers' colonies were built by the General Chemical and Worth Steel Companies. Mr. Harvey E. Stahl, Superintendent of the Claymont Special School District from 1922 to 1955, refers to this period of Claymont's transformation to an industrial community in an oral interview published in 1966. Referring to the Naaman's Creek Schoolhouse, Mr. Stahl stated, "That served as two little rooms, the second room served until about 1914, nine or ten years, and then the industries came in here and they helped to build one, two and three room school buildings to take care of their people. They had housing units built to house their employees. Overlook took care of the people who worked in the General Chemical and

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Worthland...took care of the people who worked in the big steel mills. And then they had another village called Aniline Village that took care of the people who worked in the aniline industry. So we were a community, we went very rapidly from a rural community into an industrial community along the Delaware River here." (Harvey Stahl interview, p. 9).

By 1921, the number of pupils enrolled in the Claymont Special School District had risen to 439 (Richard Watson Cooper, Better Attendance in Delaware Schools, P. 31), compared to 65 in 1900 at Naaman's Creek School. The 1921-1922 Educational Directory lists eleven teachers of grades 1-8 in the Claymont Special School District, but does not specify the school buildings where they taught. The growth in the number of teachers, subjects offered, and grades taught continued until the 1925-1926 school year when eighteen teachers from grades one to nine were listed in the Educational Directory for the State of Delaware, including special music and physical education teachers and two teachers each grade in grades one to five.

In that year, Claymont School, on Green Street, opened, offering a full educational program in grades one through nine by consolidating students formerly housed in the Overlook, Worth, the National Aniline and the Claymont (Naaman's Creek) School in one building. Mr. Stahl recalled the event as follows: "I had my office in the old stone school building that was built in 1805. So those one room and two and three room school buildings served until 1925 when we consolidated these school buildings and built our original Green Street School building." (Stahl interview, p. 10).

In summary, by 1925, Naaman's Creek School ceased operation as a one-teacher and later as a two-teacher rural school, typical of the "free schools" established by Judge Willard Hall's Free School Law of 1829. In the early twentieth century, increased population, the transformation of the Claymont area from a rural to an industrial community, the demand for a better educated work force and the reform movements of the post World War I era converged in the passage of the New School Code of 1919 and the amendment of 1921. As a direct result of these reforms, the Claymont Special School District was established in 1919, an event which stimulated the construction of the Green Street School in 1925.

The Claymont Special School District retained ownership of the school but permitted other uses. Beginning in 1929, Naaman's Creek School had served an additional educational function in the Claymont

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Naaaman's Creek School, N-1227

community as a library. The Women's Club of Claymont operated the library on a volunteer basis on Monday evenings from 7-9 P.M. Beginning in 1945, the Claymont library received matching funds for books from the State through the Public Library Commission. Volunteers from the Women's Club continued to staff the library until July of 1975, when it became part of the New Castle County Department of Libraries.

In the post-World War II years, Naaman's Creek School resumed operation as a kindergarten. Growth of suburban subdivisions by 1947 led to the reopening of the Old Stone School. The reopening of the school as a kindergarten was referred to in The Report of the Board of Education of the Claymont Special School District to the Residents of Claymont for the year ending June 30, 1948, "In the stone building, the Women's Club of Claymont met regularly after kindergarten hours." (Report P. 18). Elsewhere in the report, there was a reference to a "summer round-up" of 100 potential kindergarten students in May of 1948 compared to 70 the previous year. The school continued to operate as a kindergarten until the 1959-1960 school year when two new elementary schools were opened in the district.

Naaman's Creek School is significant architecturally at two points in time: Circa 1805 when it was built and 1905 when it was enlarged. Both sections exhibit design features that are characteristic of their period.

The original 1805 wing provides evidence of nineteenth century building and design practices even though it does not remain in its entirety. The rear endwall and most of the southwest sidewall were removed during later expansion. However, what remains of the original wing are what have always been its most visible elevations: The facade, which points toward Philadelphia Pike, and the northeast sidewall which points toward Darley Road. This older portion of the building exhibits the uncoursed granite construction and the one-story, gable front design that is characteristic of nineteenth century schoolhouses in the Piedmont region. Similar examples of this type are Mt. Airy School, District No. 27 (NR, N-5831) and Harmony School, District No. 32 (N-10,179). A side entrance version of the same building type is seen at Mount Pleasant School, District No. 2 (N-1208) and Brandywine Manufacturer's Sunday School (NR, N-345). Of the ten school districts mapped for Brandywine Hundred in the 1868 D. G. Beers, Atlas of the State of Delaware, seven of the school buildings still stand. Five of the seven have been converted to residential use. Only Naaman's Creek

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

School and Brandywine Academy (which is now within the limits of the City of Wilmington) retain integrity of function.

Due to the recessed facade of the 1905 addition and the prominent datestones, it is readily apparent that the two sections are different construction periods. The 1905 addition is transitional in its design, retaining the same basic nineteenth century building form but introducing the more modern concerns with better lighting and ventilation. The 1905 wing has the same proportions and plan as the 1805 section and it is difficult to discern any difference in the color or quality of the stonework. Its facade has the same three-bay, center door arrangement as the original. The innovative feature is the continuous row of windows that runs almost the entire length of the side wall. This feature was also added to the side wall of the 1805 wing. The effect on the interior was that each of the two classrooms had one entire wall that admitted light and air. This use of long rows of windows on Naaman's Creek School in 1905 foreshadowed the reforms in new school construction that were codified in the New School Code of 1919. In the 1920's and 1930's, the State sponsored a statewide school building program that was largely funded by Pierre S. duPont. Virtually all of the duPont Schools were designed so that each classroom had one wall of windows. Public School No. 111-C (NR, N-5258) and the Delaware City Public School, District No. 52 (NR, N-6333.232) are examples.

That the Naaman's Creek School was substantially rebuilt in 1905 is unusual for that time period. There had been an increasing awareness that Delaware schools were inadequate. However, the subsidized school building program did not begin for another 15 years. The Claymont community was forced to confront the problem of providing an education to a growing number of children, without support from the State. The building that survives today illustrates the status of a free rural school as it was affected by a community undergoing rapid industrialization.

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Continuation Sheet

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

Comprehensive Planning

Geographic Zone: Piedmont

Themes/Time Periods:

Education (15.C, 15.D, 15.E)

Naaman's Creek School provides important information on the development of Delaware's free rural school system from 1805 to 1925, the period of its operation as a school. If the 1805 construction date is accurate, then Naaman's Creek School shows one community's effort to create a school prior to any meaningful support from the State Legislature. Even without the confirmation of its construction date, the history of Naaman's Creek School illustrates a local response to the Free School Act of 1829 and the New School Code of 1919. In its final period (1919-1925), the school reveals the dynamics of the demise in the rural school system and the transition that led to the modern concept of a centralized school system.

Community Organizations (16.E)

After the building ceased operation as a school, the Women's Club of Claymont operated a community library in it from 1929 until 1975. (After 1975, New Castle County took over the library operation). In its capacity as a library, the building still served an important educational function and it remained a focal point in the community. It is important to recognize the contributions of the Women's Club in providing this community service.

Architecture (12.C, 12.E)

Naaman's Creek School is significant architecturally at two points in time: circa 1805 when it is thought to have been built and in 1905 when it was enlarged. Only two walls of the 1805 building remain. But they are enough to reveal the typical uncoursed stone construction and the one-story, gable-front form that was the norm for schoolhouse

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National Park Service**

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

architecture in the Piedmont Region. The 1905 addition closely imitates the form and construction of the original building but also shows the impact of early twentieth century reforms in school design with its substantial number of windows.

Major Families (18.C)

In 1805 John Dickinson donated to a committee the land on which Naaman's Creek School stands. It is not known if Dickinson had any other direct involvement in creating the school. However, due to his stature in State and National politics, Dickinson's association with this school should be noted.

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Naaman's Creek School, N-1227

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Weeks, Stephen B. History of Public School Education In Delaware.
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware: Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers, 1868.

Betelle, James O., A.I.A. "New School Buildings, State of Delaware," The American Architect, June, 1920.

Claymont Board of Education Minutes: 1885-1919.
Public Instruction: Brandywine School District.
State of Delaware: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Claymont Public Library: File on the History of Claymont School and the Claymont Library.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

NEW CASTLE COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.19 acre

UTM References

A

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4	6	1	0	4	0
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4	4	0	5	9	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for Naaman's Creek School is the legal parcel on which it is located. On the accompanying map titled, "New Castle County Tax Parcel Map, revised 11/27/85," the parcel is outlined and identified by the parcel number 06-072.00-012.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The legal parcel was chosen as the boundary because it coincides closely with the size parcel that was granted by John Dickinson for use as a school. The 1805 deed describes the parcel as containing 40 perches (equivalent to 0.25 acre), and the current parcel boundaries contain 0.19 acre. The adjacent parcels contain incompatible modern development which precludes any extension of the historic boundary beyond the legal parcel.

See continuation sheet

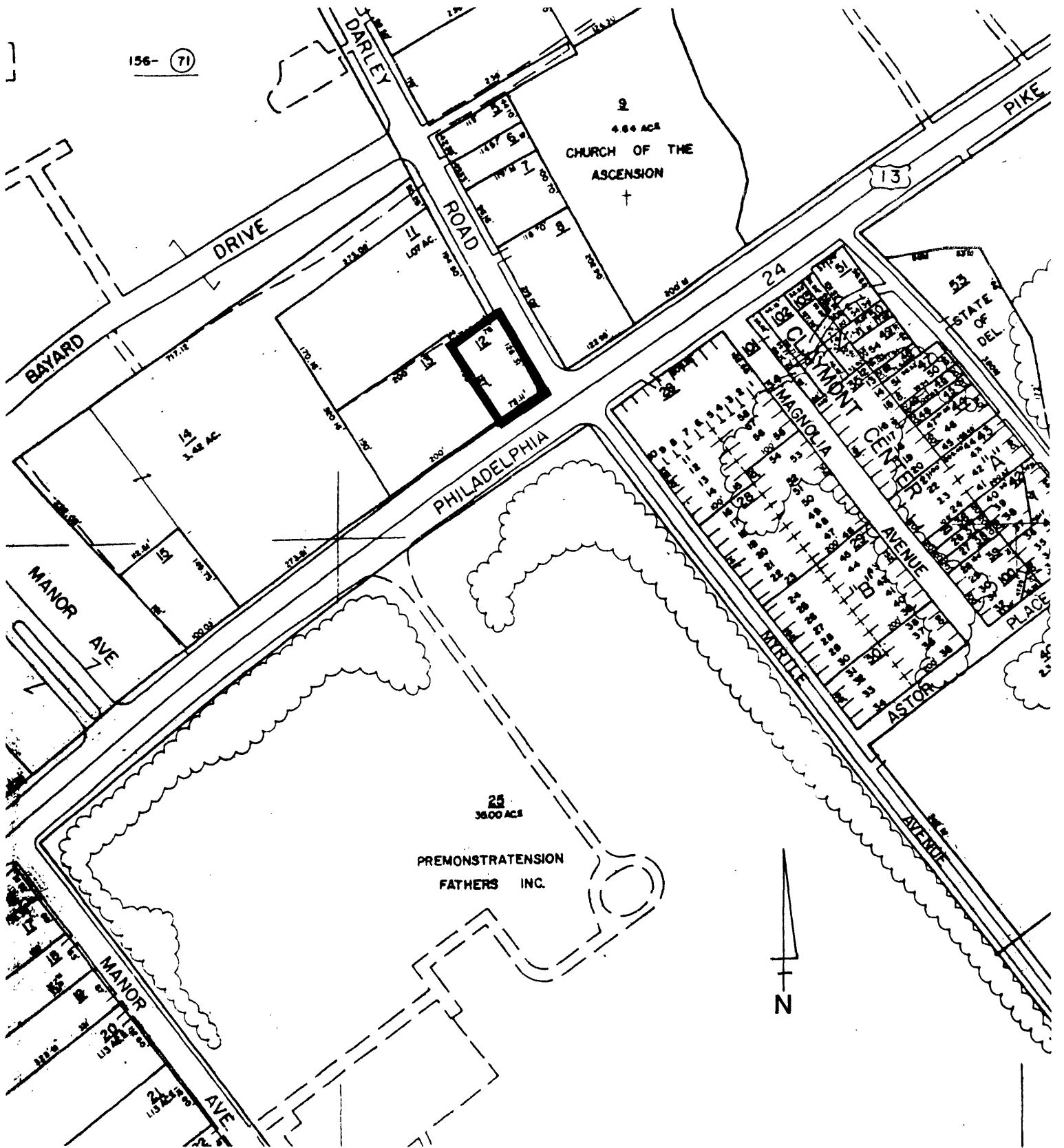
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Valerie Cesna, Anne C. Wilson; Historic Preservation Planners

organization New Castle County Department of Planning date September, 1989

street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone (302) 366-7780

city or town Newark state Delaware zip code 19711



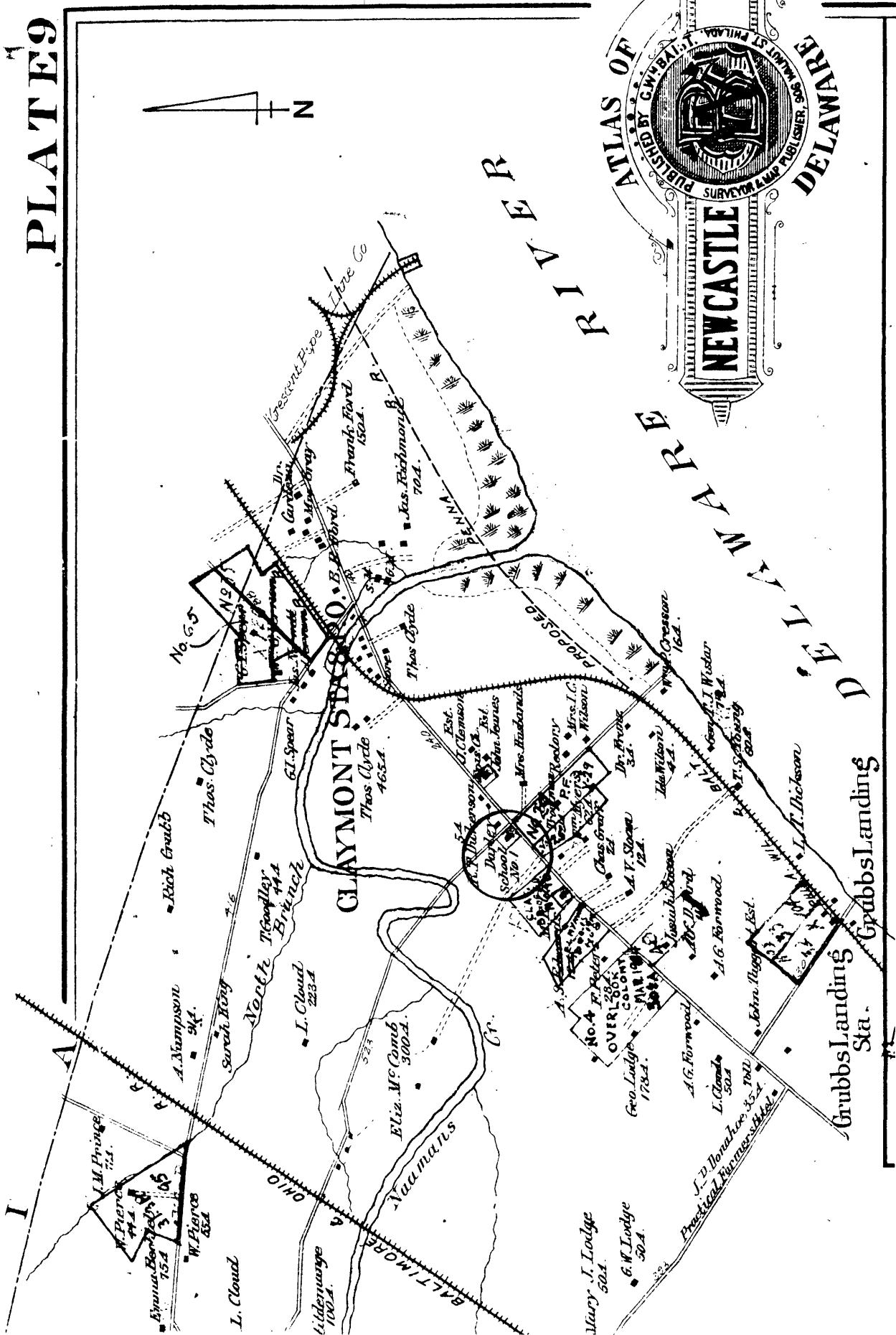
NAAMAN'S CREEK SCHOOL, N-1227

New Castle County Property Tax Map

Revised 11/27/85

Parcel #06-072.00-012

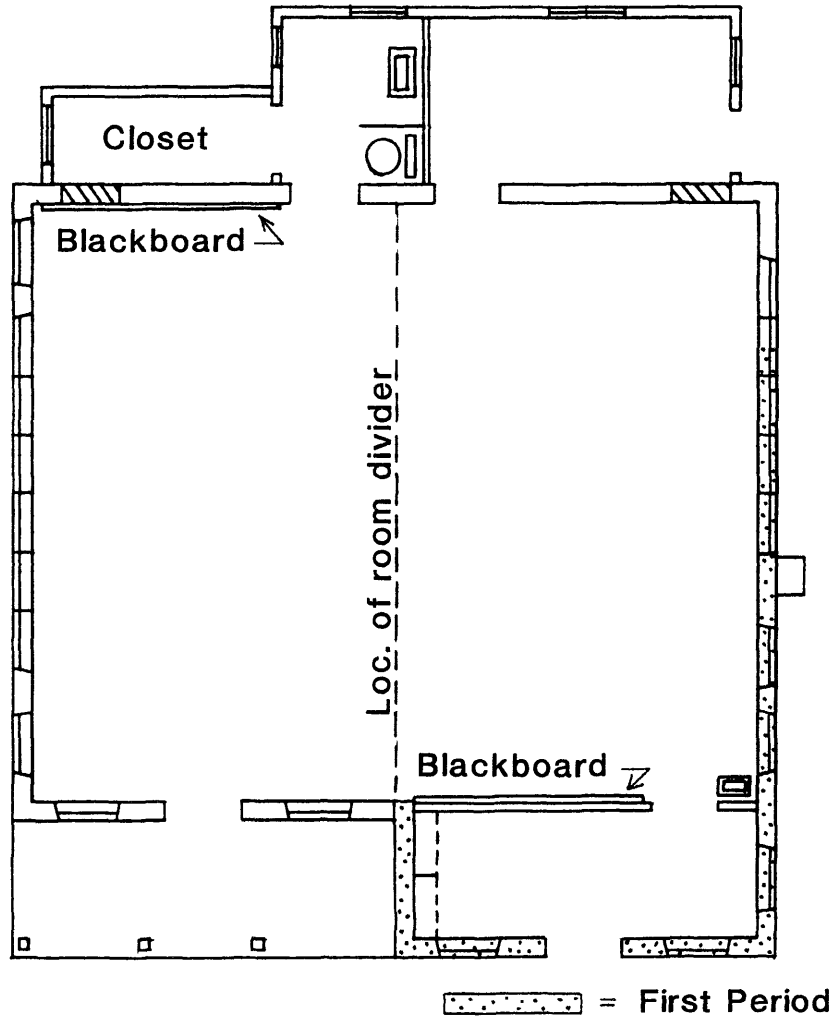
Scale: 1 inch = 200 feet



ATLAS OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE:

Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1893.

Scale: 1 inch = 2000 feet.



(Not to scale)

Naaman's Creek School, N-1227
Philadelphia Pike (U.S. Route 13)
Brandywine Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware