

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 12 1977
DATE ENTERED APR 7 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Midland School, District #26

AND/OR COMMON

Midland Branch of the Paramus Public Library

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

239 West Midland Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Paramus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

28th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

COUNTY

Bergen

CODE

003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

__PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

OTHER: Library

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Borough of Paramus

STREET & NUMBER

Route #17

CITY, TOWN

Paramus

STATE

New Jersey

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bergen County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Inventory, 1390 John Fitch Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1923</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Midland School, built in 1876, is a one story, clapboard with corner boards, five bay basilica with three frontal bays, resting on a cinder block foundation. This structure has a gable roof with extended eaves. Located in the front gable is a small open belfry with a gable roof supported by camphered, Italianate columns. Below the belfry is a keyhole shaped ornament. Entry is obtained through a four panel door with elongated side panels, transom and fanlight. Above this door is a gabled hood, supported on struts, between which is a central arch with scroll saw ornamentation in the spandrels. Surmounting the school's front facade is mouschette motifs in the barge boards. Extending across the front facade is a poured concrete slab porch with simple iron railing. All windows in the school are four over four double hung with beveled panels below the sill, on the exterior.

There is an exterior stair, to the basement, enclosed under a separate housing with a shed roof (c. 1955).

In 1923, the Borough of Paramus moved the school 55 feet closer to Midland Avenue, for purposes of easy public access. At this time a basement was added.

The floor plan is as follows: the main floor consists of one, five bay by three bay room with a small entry hall or wind break. At present the room contains a drop ceiling, library carvels and wall to wall carpeting. There still remains most of the original wainscotting and chair-rails, along the exterior walls, at the sill level.

The basement consists of one large room, with library carrals and carpeting and two small work rooms located to the rear.

The school structure is presently used as the Midland Branch of Paramus Public Library.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Midland School is a fine, well executed example of mid 19th century, elaborate vernacular architecture, with vague traces of "Gothic" and "Stick" styles. This is demonstrated in the elaborate scroll sawn barge boards and gable hood spandrils, also, in the fine open belfry with Italianate columns. The school further demonstrates the phenomenon of style transference from a known and accepted style (church type) to that of a school. This occurred as a result of the limited selection of styles in the popularly used 19th century architectural pattern books which did not provide a desired example, pertaining to schools.

Midland School is the oldest school and/or public building in existence in the Paramus Township area. On January 26, 1875, Garret and Sophie Hopper sold a 200' by 200' lot for \$500 to the Midland Township School District #26. The following year (1876), a one room school was built for the sum of \$2500. In April, 1922, the Borough of Paramus was formed and in December, 1923, the Midland School was sold to the Borough of Paramus and moved 55' closer to Midland Street. It was at this time that the interior was remodeled (partitioned to make offices and a basement was added).

In April, 1924, the school was re-opened as a Borough Hall until October, 1958 when the building was converted into the Paramus Public Library, a purpose for which it is used at the present time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bogert, F.W. Paramus- A Chronicle of Four Centuries, Paramus Public Library, 1961.
2. Book J-9 of Deeds, pg. 612, & c., 1875.
3. Midland School # 26, file, located in the Main Paramus Public Library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	576560	4534550	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(see attached sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George A. Chidley IV, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Section

DATE

February, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1390 John Fitch Plaza

TELEPHONE

292-2023 or 2024

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey


12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

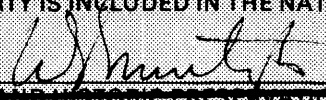
DATE

4-4-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION



DATE

4/2/78

ATTEST:

Walter Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4.4.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

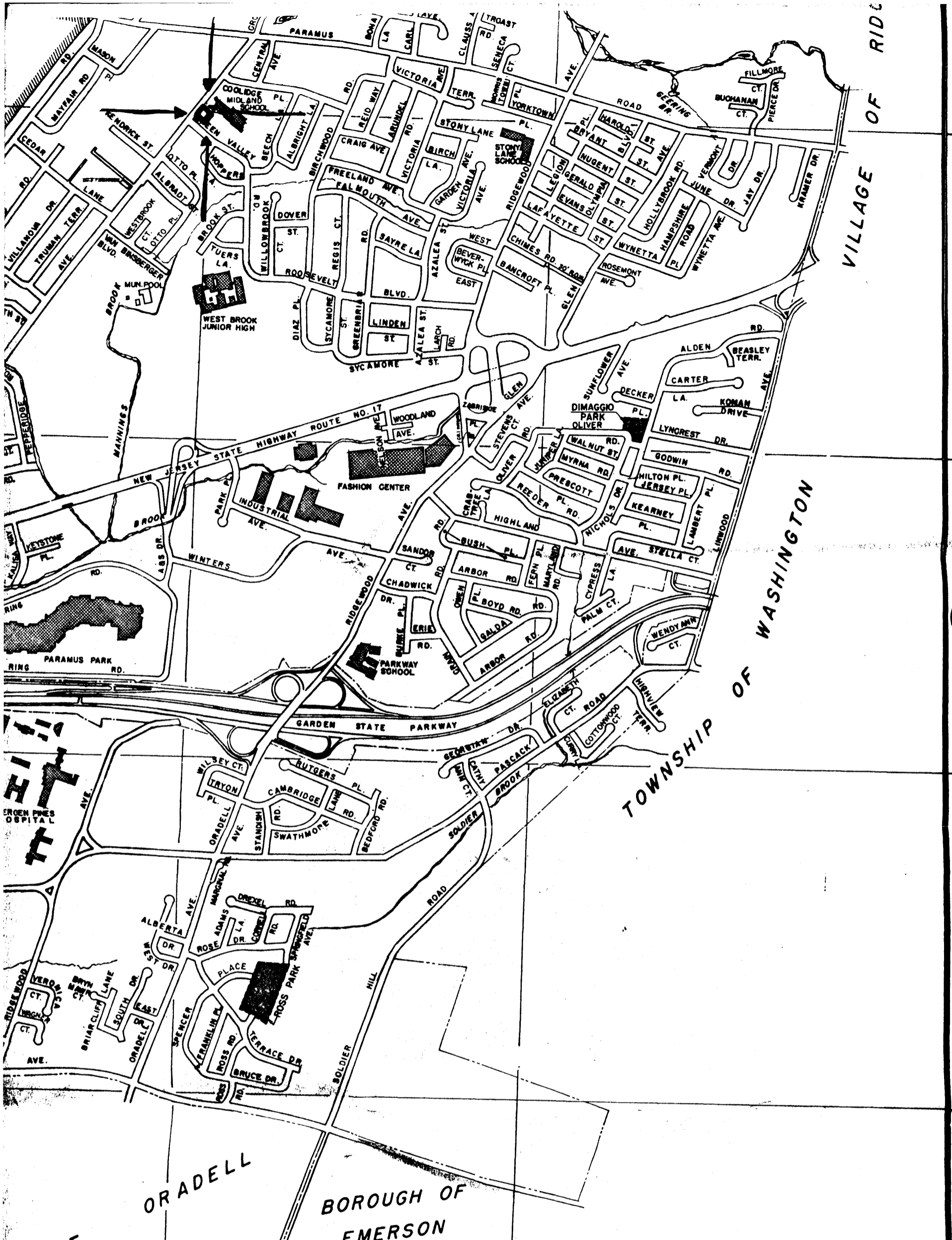
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Map:

The boundary of the Midland School, District #26, is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Street Map, Borough of Paramus, Bergen County, New Jersey, 1976.

The nominated property occupies block #4905 and lot #12 and is roughly ^{1/2} 3/4 of an acre in size.

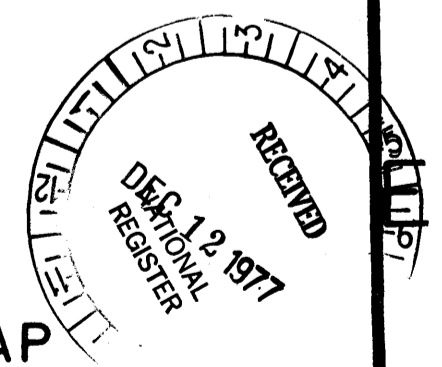
Bartham
3.14.76



ORADELL

BOROUGH OF EMERSON

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON



**STREET MAP
BOROUGH OF PARAMUS
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.**

McCLAVE & FOX
BOROUGH ENGINEERS

REV. MAY 1976
JANUARY 1975



6

7

APR 7 1978