

African American Education in Delaware: A History through Photographs, 1865-1930



Blocksoms Colored School, Sussex County

**By
Bradley Skelcher**

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D4
S57
1999

Betelle, Englehardt, and Strayer also specifically recommended that one and two room school buildings should have a cottage design to create “homelike” environment. Spacing of the seats and the amount of interior space were also considered important in promoting good health for the students. The draft recommended 200 cubic feet of air space for each student. They even included recommendations for floor design to include reinforced concrete covered with cork linoleum that were similar to Willis’ ideas. Their interior paint scheme of light green or sage followed Willis’ plan to the letter.¹⁷² The schools in Christiana and Odessa exemplified this homelike environment advocated by school designers at the time. Charles Carswell, in an article for the *Philadelphia Record* news paper described the schoolhouse. He wrote:

One interesting experiment in design is the negro [sic] school at Odessa. This new building, which presents a striking contrast to the old frame structure, is entirely fireproof, with brick foundation, asbestos walls and roof, and window frames and all trimmings of copper. It is attractive and thoroughly satisfactory, but it has been determined that it is not an economical type of construction.¹⁷³



Most of Betelle’s designs looked like homes reflecting the revival of historic American styles like the Dutch or English Colonial Revival Style depicted in this photograph of Christiana Colored School in New Castle County. Because of costs, during construction, many of his original designs were modified.

Courtesy of Hagley Museum and Library

¹⁷² Ibid.; Willis, “The Ideal Rural School Building.”

¹⁷³ Charles Carswell, “First in Community Work: Service Citizens of Delaware Successfully Demonstrate New ideas in Educational Methods and Other Uplifting Activities,” *Philadelphia Record Sunday Morning*, August 13, 1922.

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORY

OF THE

STATE OF
DELAWARE
1921 - 22



Handwritten scribble:
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M/A

Published by the
State Department of Public Instruction

List of Teachers, New Castle County, Delaware, 1921-22.

COLORED SCHOOLS.

Dist. No.	Name of School	TEACHER	ADDRESS
106	Newport	Victoria Matheas	109 W. 12th St., Wilmington, Del.
		Anita Irons	1725 W. 8th St., Wilmington, Del.
107	Hockessin	Minnie B. Greene	Hockessin, Del.
108	Marshallton	Augusta Lones	610 du Pont St., Wilmington, Del.
111	Christiana	Mrs. Meta Boddy	Christiana, Del.
112	Iron Hill	Anna Rivers	Newark, Del.
113	Williamsville	Blanche Bell	Elkton, Md.
114	Bethseda	Ethel Money	Elkton, Md.
115	Kirkwood	Pauline Dyson	Kirkwood, Del.
11	Summit Bridge	William Pinkston	Summit Bridge, Del.
		Alice Ford	Summit Bridge, Del.
117	St. Georges	Amanda Pearce	St. Georges, Del.
118	Delaware City	Marcellus Blackburn	Delaware City, Del.
		Mrs. Beatrice Smith	Delaware City, Del.
119	Mt. Pleasant	Alfred T. Guy	Clayton, Del.
120	Middletown	Helen Freeman	Middletown, Del.
		Edna Smith	Middletown, Del.
		Madge Beach	Middletown, Del.
		Lucy Jackson	Odessa, Del., Box 104.
121	Odessa	Lucy Jackson	Odessa, Del., Box 104.
122	Port Penn	N. S. Stewart	Port Penn, Del.
124	Lee's Chapel	Olivia B. Young	Townsend, Del.
125	Townsend	Pauline Kelly	Townsend, Del.
126	Ebenezer	Amelia Cook	Townsend, Del.
127	Taylor's Bridge	Melvina Turner	R. F. D., Townsend, Del.
128	Green Springs	Irma Gibbs	Dover, Del.
129	Matthews Cor.	Ellen Johns	Odessa, Del.

Kent County, Delaware Teachers, 1921-22.

Dist. No.	Name of School	TEACHER	ADDRESS
1	Blackiston	Mrs. C. R. Numbers	Clayton, Del.
7	Raymond's	Blanche Morgan	Clayton, Del.
8	Down's Chapel	Lucie Ellis	Kenton, Del.
9	Kenton	S. Catherine Johns	Kenton, Del.
		Edith Quillen	Kenton, Del.
10	Moore's	Anna Pearson	Cheswold, Del.
11-81	Leipsic	Principal Mark B. Dreisgacker	Leipsic, Del.
		Jean M. Longfellow	Leipsic, Del.
		Mrs. F. D. Harrington	Dover, Del.
12	Cowgill's	Mrs. F. D. Harrington	Dover, Del.
13	Oak Grove	Mrs. Nettie S. Moore	Dover, Del.
14	Comegys	Edna E. Short	Dover, Del., R. F. D.
15	Fairview	Mr. J. S. Dally	Marydel, Md.
16	Mt. Willow	S. Elizabeth Ware	Dover, Del.
17	Chestnut Grove		
21	Oak Point	Willard S. Carson	Wyoming, Del.
23	Sandtown	Mrs. Sadie H. Shockley	Goldsboro, Md.
24	Petersburg	Gladys McBooker	Wyoming, Del.
26	Canterbury	Agnes M. Thomas	Felton, Del.
28	Warrens	Mrs. Alice J. Gray	Frederica, Del.
29	Jumps	Irene Tatman	Felton, Del.
30	Black Swamp	Mrs. Florence D. Jester	Felton, Del.
31	Pratt's Branch	Elizabeth Frazier	Felton, Del.
32-75 etc.	Frederica	Prin. M. L. Hydorn	Frederica, Del.
		Mary R. Moss	Frederica, Del.
		Mary H. Putnam	Frederica, Del.
		Rena M. Carlson	Frederica, Del.
		R. N. Jones	Frederica, Del.
		Elizabeth Burris	Frederica, Del.
		Jennie Riley	Frederica, Del.
		Gladys Phillips	Frederica, Del.
		Mrs. Annie Harrington	Frederica, Del.
		Mrs. Alice G. Melvin	Frederica, Del.
33	Thomas'	Mrs. Virgie Layton	Harrington, Del.
34	Smith	Mrs. Estelle Reynolds	Harrington, Del.
36	Prospect	Esther Adams	Harrington, Del.
37	Tomahawk	Henry C. Fike	Farmington, Del.
39-124	Farmington	Emma Taylor	Farmington, Del.
40	Cedarfield	Ruth Pearson	Milford, Del.
40½	Church Hill	Lulu D. Emory	Houston, Del.
41	Williamsville	Edna Baker	Farmington, Del.
44	Pine Grove	Mildred T. Calloway	Milford, Del.
45	Bennett's Gate	John Gam	Milford, Del.
46	Bethseda	Bessie Virdin	Hartly, Del.
47	Maple Grove	Mrs. Alice H. Ross	Harrington, Del.
50-108	Magnolia	Prin. J. Ralph McIlvaine	Magnolia, Del.
		Bessie H. Wonder	Magnolia, Del.
		Keturah Beidman	Magnolia, Del.
51	Dennys	Claudia Harmon	Dover, Del., care of Ralph Leonard
52	Willow Grove	Nancy Ponder	Wyoming, Del.
53	Frazier's	Margaret M. Webb	Goldsboro, Md.

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
DR. GEORGE R. MILLER, JR., State Superintendent

EDUCATIONAL
DIRECTORY
1951-1952

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

NEW CASTLE COUNTY (Continued)

Term Expires	Trustees & Teachers	Address
Dist.		Grades Taught
111-c	CHRISTIANA	Christiana, Del.
1955	James Munson, Clerk	Christiana
1954	Levi Gaddis	Christiana
1953	Richard A. Neal	Christiana
1952	Alfred Moody, Chairman	Christiana
	Mrs. Helen E. Taylor	Grades 1-6
	926 French St., Wilmington, Del.	
112-c	IRON HILL	Newark, Del.
1955	Oliver Smith	R. 1, Newark
1954	Maynard Earl, Clerk	Iron Hill, Maryland
1953	Howard Congo, Chairman	R. 1, Newark
1952	Frank Williams	R. 1, Newark
	Minnie M. Ryder	Grades 1-6
	103 New London Ave., Newark, Del.	
117-c	KIRKWOOD - ST. GEORGES	Kirkwood, Del.
1955	Harry Moore, Chairman	Kirkwood
1954	Isadore Fields	St. Georges
1953	Leonard Sadler	Kirkwood
1952	Clayton Roy	Kirkwood
	Mrs. Charlotte P. Taylor, Clerk	Grades 1-6
	1729 West 5th St., Wilmington, Del.	
118-c	DELAWARE CITY	Delaware City, Del.
1955	Roland J. Henry	Delaware City
1954	Beulah Beacham	Delaware City
1953	Arthur T. Watson, Clerk	Delaware City
1952	Perry Harding, Chairman	Delaware City
	Clinton D. Collins	Grades 5-8
	Mrs. Carrie H. Blackburn	Grades 1-4
	Box 25, Dover, Del.	
119-c	MT. PLEASANT	Mt. Pleasant, Del.
1955	Garfield Berry	R. D., Mt. Pleasant
1954	Harry Ross, Clerk	R. D., Mt. Pleasant
1953	Frank Blackson, Chairman	R. D., Mt. Pleasant
1952	Elwood Harvey	R. D., Mt. Pleasant
	Mrs. Wilhelmina F. Waters	Grades 1-6
	c/o Harry Ross, Mt. Pleasant, Del.	
120-c	MIDDLETOWN	Middletown, Delaware
1955	Oscar Todd	Middletown
1954	Edward Fields, Chairman	Middletown
1953	George Pierce	Middletown
1952	Wallace Sudler	Middletown
	Alfred G. Waters	Prin., Clerk & Math.
	James E. Barksdale	Music
	Mrs. Muriel F. Cooper	Art
	Mrs. Saralie Dickerson	Jr. High, Grade 7
	Herman T. Moody	Soc. Stu. & Sci.
	Templemae Muse	Physical Education
	Ralph L. Peters	Industrial Arts
	Harley F. Taylor	Agriculture
	Mrs. Catherine H. Woody	Home Ec. & Science
	Ellis Moody	Grade 8
	Mrs. Isabel F. Wilson	Grade 5
	Mrs. Margaret L. Waters	Grade 4
	Mrs. Henri M. Spearman	Grade 3
	Mrs. Bertha S. Johnson	Grade 2
	Ellen Johns	Grade 1
	Mrs. Mayme Jeter	Nurse
	Barbara Hall	Secretary
124-c	LEE'S CHAPEL	Townsend, Del.
1955	Harry Cottingham	Townsend
1954	Ernest Chandler	Townsend
1953	William A. Davis, Sr., Clerk	Townsend
1952	Mrs. Mary Holden, Chairman	Townsend
	Carrie A. Rasin	Grades 1-6
	1000 Wilson St., Wilmington, Del.	
125-c	TOWNSEND	Townsend
1955	Emory Hayes	Townsend
1954	Ferdinand D. Caulk, Chairman	Townsend
1953	Henry Wharton, Clerk	Townsend
1952	Walter Brown	Townsend
	Mrs. Ethel M. Roy	Grades 1-6
	c/o S. Money, R. D., Elkton, Md.	

NEW CASTLE COUNTY (Continued)

Term Expires Dist.	Trustees & Teachers	Grades Taught	Address
111-c	CHRISTIANA		Christiana, Del.
1955	James Munson, Clerk		Christiana
1954	Levi Gaddis		Christiana
1953	Richard A. Neal		Christiana
1952	Alfred Moody, Chairman		Christiana
	Mrs. Helen E. Taylor	Grades 1-6	926 French St., Wilmington, Del.
112-c	IRON HILL		Newark, Del.
1955	Oliver Smith	R. 1, Newark	
1954	Maynard Earl, Clerk		Iron Hill, Maryland
1953	Howard Congo, Chairman		R. 1, Newark
1952	Frank Williams		R. 1, Newark
	Minnie M. Ryder	Grades 1-6	103 New London Ave., Newark, Del.
117-c	KIRKWOOD - ST. GEORGES		Kirkwood, Del.
1955	Harry Moore, Chairman		Kirkwood
1954	Isadore Fields		St. Georges
1953	Leonard Sadler		Kirkwood
1952	Clayton Roy		Kirkwood
	Mrs. Charlotte P. Taylor, Clerk	Grades 1-6	1729 West 5th St., Wilmington, Del.
118-c	DELAWARE CITY		Delaware City, Del.
1955	Roland J. Henry		Delaware City
1954	Beulah Beacham		Delaware City
1953	Arthur T. Watson, Clerk		Delaware City
1952	Perry Harding, Chairman		Delaware City
	Clinton D. Collins	Grades 5-8	
	Mrs. Carrie H. Blackburn	Grades 1-4	Box 25, Dover, Del.
119-c	MT. PLEASANT		Mt. Pleasant, Del.
1955	Garfield Berry	R. D., Mt. Pleasant	
1954	Harry Ross, Clerk		R. D., Mt. Pleasant
1953	Frank Blackson, Chairman		R. D., Mt. Pleasant
1952	Elwood Harvey		R. D., Mt. Pleasant
	Mrs. Wilhelmina F. Waters	Grades 1-6	c/o Harry Ross, Mt. Pleasant, Del.
120-c	MIDDLETOWN		Middletown, Delaware
1955	Oscar Todd		Middletown
1954	Edward Fields, Chairman		Middletown
1953	George Pierce		Middletown
1952	Wallace Sudler		Middletown
	Alfred G. Waters	Prin., Clerk & Math.	
	James E. Barksdale	Music	
	Mrs. Muriel F. Cooper	Art	
	Mrs. Saralie Dickerson	Jr. High, Grade 7	
	Herman T. Moody	Soc. Stu. & Sci.	
	Templemae Muse	Physical Education	
	Ralph L. Peters	Industrial Arts	
	Harley F. Taylor	Agriculture	
	Mrs. Catherine H. Woody	Home Ec. & Science	
	Ellis Moody	Grade 6	
	Mrs. Isabel F. Wilson	Grade 5	
	Mrs. Margaret L. Waters	Grade 4	
	Mrs. Henri M. Spearman	Grade 3	
	Mrs. Bertha S. Johnson	Grade 2	
	Ellen Johns	Grade 1	
	Mrs. Mayme Jeter	Nurse	
	Barbara Hall	Secretary	
124-c	LEE'S CHAPEL		Townsend, Del.
1955	Harry Cottingham		Townsend
1954	Ernest Chandler		Townsend
1953	William A. Davis, Sr., Clerk		Townsend
1952	Mrs. Mary Holden, Chairman		Townsend
	Carrie A. Rasin	Grades 1-6	1000 Wilson St., Wilmington, Del.
125-c	TOWNSEND		Townsend
1955	Emory Hayes		Townsend
1954	Ferdinand D. Caulk, Chairman		Townsend
1953	Henry Wharton, Clerk		Townsend
1952	Walter Brown		Townsend
	Mrs. Ethel M. Roy	Grades 1-6	c/o S. Money, R. D., Elkton, Md.

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
DR. GEORGE R. MILLER, JR., State Superintendent

EDUCATIONAL
DIRECTORY
1952-1953

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

NEW CASTLE COUNTY (Continued)

Dist.	Term Expires	Trustees & Teachers	Grades Taught
91	YORKLYN (Continued)		
		Mrs. Blanche Bahr	Grades 3-4
		Sarah E. Potts	Grades 1-2

(COLORED)

111-c	CHRISTIANA (Closed as of June 30, 1952)		
118-c	DELAWARE CITY Delaware City, Del.		
	1956	Perry Harding, Chairman	Delaware City
	1955	Roland J. Henry	Delaware City
	1954	Beulah Beacham	Delaware City
	1953	Arthur T. Watson, Clerk	Delaware City
		Clinton D. Collins	Grades 5-8
		Mrs. Carrie H. Blackburn	Grades 1-4
		Box 25, Dover, Del.	
126-c	EBENEZER Townsend, Del.		
	1956	Mrs. Bessie M. Henry	Townsend
	1955	Walter T. Hopkins	Townsend
	1954	Joseph E. Henry, Sr.	R. 1, Townsend
	1953	N. Anna Caulk, Chairman	Townsend
		Portia E. Loper	Grades 1-6
		Box 92, R.D., Kenton, Del.	
107-c	HOCKESSIN Hockessin, Del.		
	1956	Joseph Thomas	Hockessin
	1955	Jacob W. Johnston, Jr., Clerk	Hockessin
	1954	Lewis Cornish, Chairman	Hockessin
	1953	Paul Waters	Hockessin
		Mrs. Anna C. Russum	Grades 4-6
		1216 Tatnall St., Wilmington, Del.	
		Constantia Beaujon	Grades 1-3
		811 N. Clayton St., Wilmington, Del.	
112-c	IRON HILL Newark, Del.		
	1956	Frank Williams	R. 1, Newark
	1955	Oliver Smith	R. 1, Newark
	1954	Maynard Earl	Iron Hill, Maryland
	1953	Howard Congo	R. 1, Newark
		Minnie M. Ryder	Grades 1-6
		103 New London Ave., Newark, Del.	
117-c	KIRKWOOD - ST. GEORGES Kirkwood, Del.		
	1956	Clayton Roy	Kirkwood
	1955	Harry Moore, Chairman	Kirkwood
	1954	Isadore Fields	St. Georges
	1953	Leonard Sadler	Kirkwood
		Mrs. Charlotte P. Taylor, Clerk	Grades 1-6
		1729 West 5th St., Wilmington, Del.	
124-c	LEE'S CHAPEL Townsend, Del.		
	1956	Mrs. Mary Holden, Chairman	Townsend
	1955	Harry Cottingham	Townsend
	1954	Ernest Chandler	Townsend
	1953	William A. Davis, Sr., Clerk	Townsend
		Mrs. Mary L. Boyer	Grades 1-6
		Middletown, Del.	
120-c	MIDDLETOWN Middletown, Delaware		
	1956	Wallace Sudler	Middletown
	1955	Oscar Todd	Middletown
	1954	Edward Fields, Chairman	Middletown
	1953	Homer Miles	Middletown
		Alfred G. Waters	Principal & Math.
		James E. Barksdale	Music
		Mrs. Muriel F. Cooper	Art
		Aubry T. Jeter	Agriculture
		Herman T. Moody	Science, Soc. Stu. & English
		Ralph L. Peters	Industrial Arts
		Mrs. Templemae Rodriguez	Physical Education
		Mrs. Cortney W. Stevenson	Home Ec. & Science
		Mrs. Saralie D. Tart	Grade 7
		Ellis Moody	Grade 6
		Mrs. Isabel F. Wilson	Grade 5
		Mrs. Margaret L. Waters	Grade 4
		Mrs. Henri M. Spearman	Grade 3
		Mrs. Bertha S. Johnson	Grade 2
		Ellen Johns	Grade 1
		Mrs. Mayme Jeter	Nurse
		Barbara Hall	Secretary

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

OCT 18 1979

**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

Public School Number 111-C

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

DE 7

STREET & NUMBER

Boite-7

CITY, TOWN

Christiana
Christiana

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

VICINITY OF

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

3 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: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Delaware Department of Public Instruction

see letter 8/24/79

STREET & NUMBER

Townsend Building

CHRISTIANA Community CENTER, INC

MR. WILLIAM H. HARRIS

XU MEURY HANE

CHRISTIANA, DE

CITY, TOWN

Dover

VICINITY OF

19702

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET & NUMBER

Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-5258

DATE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-5258

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
—GOOD
X FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED
—ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE: _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Public School No. 111-C is situated on the east side of and facing the Wilmington and Christiana Pike just north of the village of Christiana, White Clay Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The building rests on a flat topped ridge north of Christiana Creek. In the immediate vicinity of the school are several single story frame residences built in recent decades. The original two acres of land associated with the school are included with the nomination which incorporates the school yard and former playground.

Essentially, this colonial revival school building consists of a medium sized one story and attic block which functions as the classroom. To this core are appended three small wings housing the furnace room, wash rooms and work and lunch room.

The main block is constructed of balloon framing which rests upon a concrete foundation and crawl space. It is covered by a low gambrel roof of composition shingle with partial returns. A simple box cornice with bed molding defines the eave line. The building is especially sturdy as the exterior walls are formed of heavy, horizontally laid planking nailed to the studs and principal posts. This exterior planking is approximately an inch and a half thick and some twelve inches wide. Wide overlapped mill sawn weatherboard forms the finished exterior and narrow vertical boards define the corners. The building is painted dark green, with white wooden trim.

On the north gable end of the classroom block is a large exterior end chimney of brick which vents the furnace. At attic level on each gable end are two quarter-circle windows. The facade is comprised of a bank of six tall windows with nine over nine pane sashes. To the right of the facade is the entrance door, protected by a pedimented gable porch supported four square wooden posts resting on a concrete slab. The door consists of five horizontal raised panels and is framed by paneled recesses and is surmounted by a five light hinged transom.

On the northwest corner of the main block is the one story furnace room. It is built of the materials used throughout the school and features a composition shingled gable roof with partial return box cornices. On the front elevation of the furnace room are situated a two over two pane sash window and six paneled door which provides access to the furnace and heating system.

A small gable roofed wing on the south gable end houses the washrooms. Projecting from the rear of the main block and opening to the classroom is a story and attic wing designed as a work room and lunch room. At the attic level on the gable end is a small circular window with a keyed wooden architrave. An unpaved drive way connected to the main road runs immediately in front of and parallel to the school.

The interior of the school is very plain with simple baseboards and trim surrounding the interior doorways and windows. The walls are of lath and plaster and have been painted in various light colors over the years. The ceilings too, are of lath and plaster. The floor is built of narrow hardwood tongue and groove boards. A built-in bookshelf is situated just past the foyer. In the northeast corner of the classroom is a built-in colonial revival supply closet. The chalkboards have been removed but their original wall locations are discernable.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Public School No. 111-C

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Architect James O. Betelle, a partner of the firm of Gilbert and Betelle who designed most of the du Pont fund Black schools, wrote an article for The American Architect in June of 1930 which outlined the practical considerations governing the design of the modern rural school. Portions of his discussion follow:

"The small rural school is not as simple a problem as it might at first glance seem. In the one and two teacher buildings it must be borne in mind that the teacher is usually the janitor as well. In addition to her duties as instructor she must be burdened with many other cares. How to reduce these duties and eliminate the cares and permit her to give the maximum time and energy to instruction has been given a great amount of thought and careful study. In the design of the building the layout of the heating, the water supply and the plumbing has been the most difficult to decide. From the standpoint of first cost it was possible with the funds available to place the very best systems of heating, running water for drinking purposes, and the installation of water closets. It was not this first cost, however, that was the deciding factor, but the attention and expense that was necessary for proper maintenance after the systems had been installed. It must be realized that these small buildings receive no attention during the holidays or from Fridays until Mondays, and that no heat is maintained in the building during those periods. Even if it were decided to keep heat up at all times during the cold weather, so that running water system could be installed, heavy snows and impassable roads would often make it impossible to reach the school building for days at a time, and the freezing up of the plumbing system would naturally be the result.

After much consideration and investigation it was decided to install chemical toilet fixtures to be reached through the coat rooms inside the small buildings. For the water supply system it was further decided to install a hand pump over a sink in the work room. The water in the pump will be sufficiently below grade to prevent freezing, and it is in a convenient location for use for drinking purposes and for instruction purposes in connection with domestic science lessons. For the heating, a jacketed stove located in an alcove or a furnace placed in a small room outside of the class room was decided upon. It is realized that the jacketed stove will heat and ventilate the class room with considerably less coal than the furnace. It is admitted, however, that the jacketed stove does not give the required 30 cu. ft. of air per minute per pupil and on this account it of course consumes less fuel. A stove in the class room with the attending noise, confusion and dust caused by the putting on of coal and the removal of ashes is very much of a handicap to good instruction work. A furnace in a separate room, where the firing and the removal of ashes will not interfere with the classes and which will provide the proper amount of ventilation, will be installed wherever the community is willing to provide the additional amount of fuel needed to obtain the more satisfactory results."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 13 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 18 1979

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

Public School No. 111-C

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

"The community use of these small schools have always been kept in mind. In the isolated communities the church is usually near the school, and it is contemplated that these two elements of public welfare work will very closely cooperate. The class rooms will be fitted with movable desks which can be placed around the walls and the center of the room thus left clear for community meetings or dances. Additional chairs are kept in a convenient store closet and can be brought out and used for community lectures, entertainments, etc. The work room can be used not only for the instruction of pupils, but is available as additional seating space for meetings, for the serving of refreshments at entertainments or dances, and for adult instruction in sewing, canning and cooking in the summer months or during evenings.

The materials to be used in these buildings will be clapboards, or brick veneer on a frame structure. The roofs will be of shingles or slate. A paved space will be provided on the outside, adjoining the building, so that the children will always have a dry place for outdoor play during all periods of the year. A number of different types of these schools will be built. This is necessary on account of the different locations of the building sites and their exposure to different points of compass. Everything possible will be done to construct the building in such a way that the maintenance cost can be kept down to the minimum, and when completed the school will be finished in every way."

Public School Number 111-C is presently unoccupied. There are several local groups which are actively pursuing the possibility of rehabilitating the property for use as a community center and museum.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Public School Number 111-C is significant to the educational heritage of Delaware as a well preserved example of the black schools built in the 1920's by progressive philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont, III. Largely through his efforts and generosity the State of Delaware was able to inaugurate one of the most ambitious and successful school building programs in America.

In an article for the magazine American Architect, June 16, 1920, entitled, "New School Buildings, State of Delaware," architect James O. Betelle presented an excellent summation of du Pont's program to improve Delaware's educational system. Betelle was a partner in the architectural firm of Guilbert and Betelle, of Trenton, New Jersey, who produced the plans and specifications for most of the schools built by the du Pont fund. Betelle pointed out that the most progressive citizen of the state had long realized the education facilities of Delaware were grossly inadequate. Most of the buildings were fifty to one hundred or more years old, obsolete, and a menace to the health and safety of the children. A survey of existing school buildings was conducted by an organization known as the Service Citizens of Delaware and the results published in 1919 in a book entitled General Report on School Buildings and Grounds of Delaware. The report included a set of "Standards and Rules" for school construction and recommended that they be strictly followed by architects designing future Delaware public schools.

Pierre S. du Pont made a gift of over \$2,500,000 for the construction of new schools for all Delaware school children. This fund was administered by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association, created for this purpose, and directed by Dr. Joseph H. Odell, also director of the Service Citizens of Delaware. Dr. Odell summarized P.S. du Pont's premiere role in the project:

".....The man who had made 40 per cent of the explosive that burst along 400 miles of trenches in Europe now turned his attention almost exclusively to the improvement of educational conditions in Delaware. He worked chiefly through the Service Citizens and called in the aid of the most experienced educationalists of America in meeting the problems as they arose. The conditions of public school property, which were ascertained by an exhaustive survey, led Mr. du Pont to set aside \$2,500,000 for the rebuilding of school houses, nine thousand of this amount to be used in building rural colored schools. Greater than his gift of money has been his gift of himself. Delaware has had the privilege of seeing its richest and most influential citizen pass his business responsibilities on to others, foregoing the pleasures of leisure, society, travel, and spending his time and strength in going from place to place in the State, expounding the New School Code, conferring with

0 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George B. Strayer ~~General Report on School Buildings and Grounds for Delaware, 1919~~
 published by Service Citizens of Delaware, Wilmington, 1919.

booklet, "What Do You Know About the Public Schools of Delaware" published by the Service
 Citizens of Delaware, Wilmington, N.D. (1924?)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.85 ACES
 UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle Scale 1:24,000
 Quadrangle Name Newark East

A 18° 1431910 91615
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 18° 1431910 91615
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The following is from New Castle County Deed Record H-85 p. 281: "BEGINNING at a point in the center of the public road leading from Christina to Wilmington at a corner of land now or formerly of William Hance; thence with said Hance's land south sixty-five degrees and forty-eight minutes east three hundred thirty feet to a post; thence still with said Hance's land south sixty-four degrees ten minutes east eighteen feet to a point; thence by a new line dividing this from other lands of William F. Neal, north fifteen degrees forty-five minutes east two hundred sixty-three feet and five-tenths of a foot to a point

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Dean E. Nelson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Delaware Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

STREET NUMBER

Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

DATE

June, 1979

TELEPHONE

(302) 678-5314

STATE

Delaware 19843

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Daniel R. Griffith

TITLE Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Hist. Preservation
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/8/79

FDRNPS USE ONLY

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

Carol Shull

DATE

10-18-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Carole Jane Sage*

DATE

10-17-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

slslllllll

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 13 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 18 1979

Public School Number 111-C

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

local boards of education about consolidations and new buildings, discussing with any and every type of citizen the details of the projected educational program and, in the course of this work, eating, and sleeping anywhere or missing meals entirely. Weeks together, Sundays as well as week days, he has devoted his undivided attention to education, and the entire state is recognizing its unrepayable debt to Mr. du Pont. ' ' "

Considerable attention was given to each aspect of school construction. The du Pont Black schools were carefully sited on two acre landscaped lots with walks, drives and playground equipment. The buildings were kept as simple as possible, to insure maximum efficiency as an educational facility and community center as well. The severity of the straightforward, geometric, floor plans was lightened somewhat by the use of restrained colonial revival detailing, popular at the time as a visual interpretation and architectural symbol of the simple democratic virtues perceived to be the foundation of America's greatness.

In the early 1920's approximately eighty schools were built throughout the state for Black students. It is not known at present how many of these have survived or to what extent they may have been altered over the years. Public School No. 111-C in Christiana has survived as an excellent and unaltered example of the type of segregated school that served the Black community in Delaware until recent years.

FHR-8-300A
FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED AUG 13 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 13 1979

Public School Number 111-C
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

Page 1

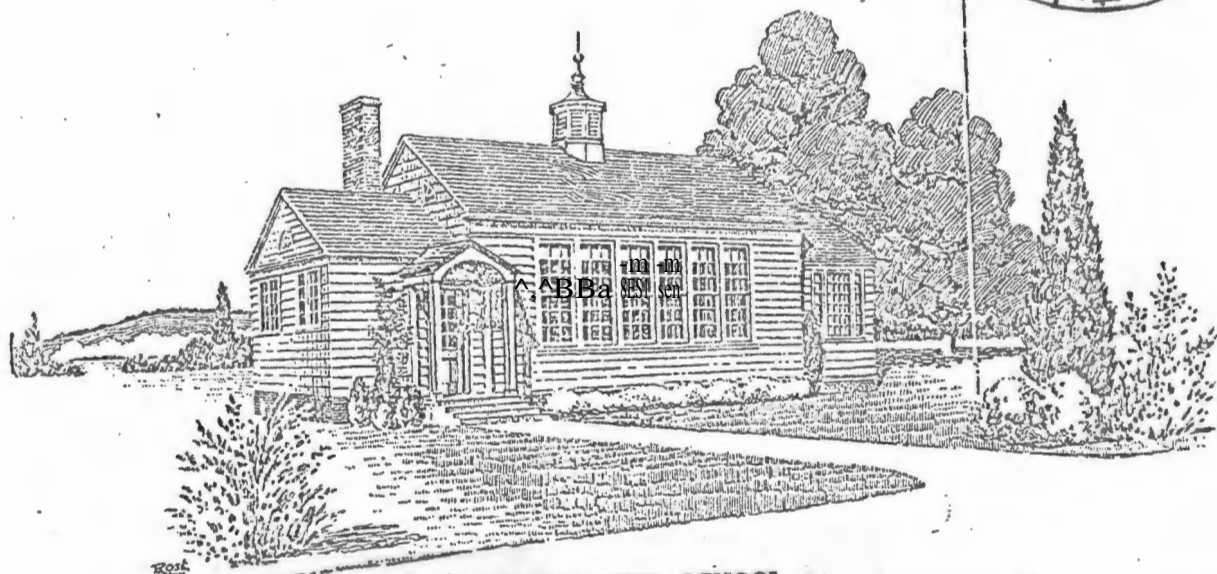
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

9.

"Feudal Delaware" ~~File~~ Time: January 31, 1927

James O. Betelle, A.I.A.; "New School Buildings; State of Delaware," American Architect, CXLVII, June 16, 1920.

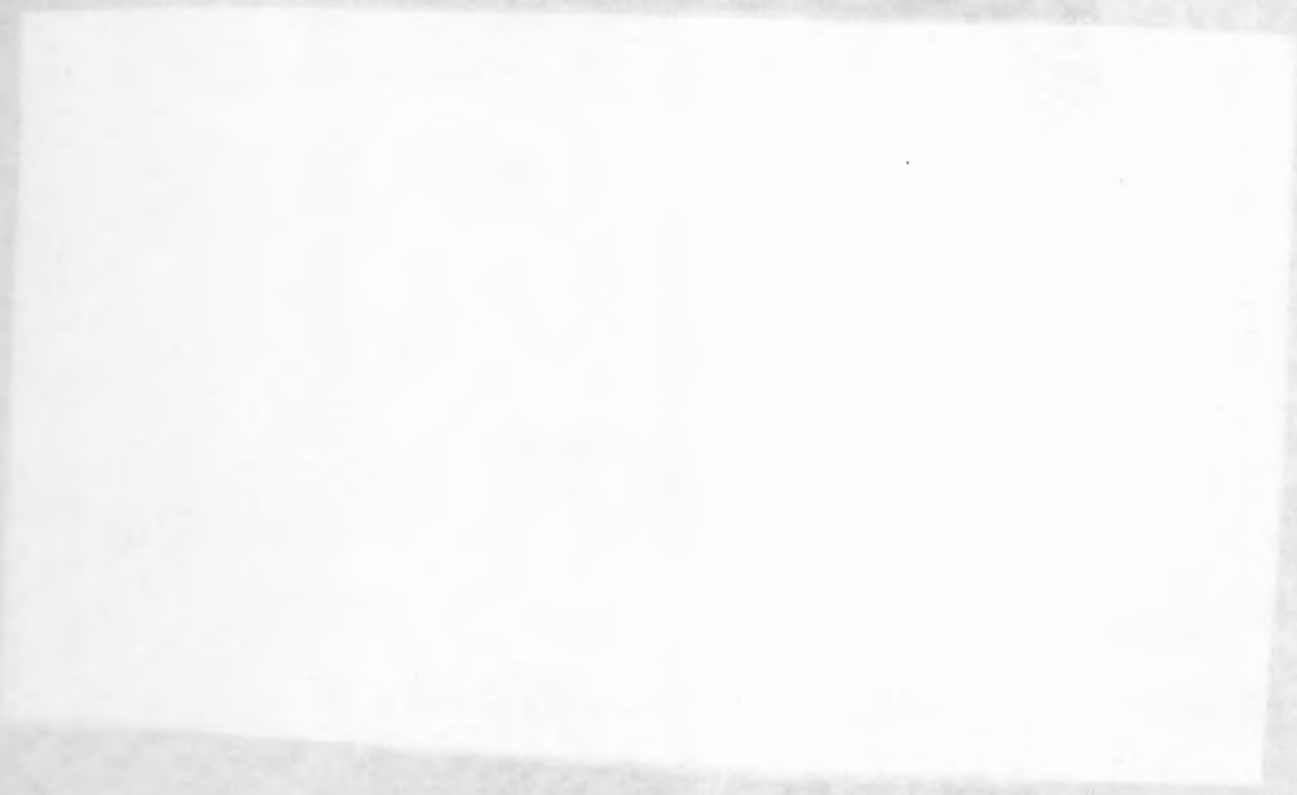
Robert G. Murnay, "What Delaware Is Doing For Its Negroes," Southern Workman Vol. LI No. 11, November 1922. Press of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.



ONE TEACHER SCHOOL

This illustration appeared in an article entitled "New School Buildings, State of Delaware" in The American Architect, June, 1920. The author was James O. Betelle, A.I.A. a partner in Guilbert and Betelle of Trenton, New Jersey, who designed the du Pont fund schools. Public School No. 111-C in Christiana was built according to the above pictured plan, varying slightly in that it lacked the cupola and substituted a gambrel roof.

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Iti-

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 13 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 18 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Public School No. 111-C

CONTINUATION SHEET

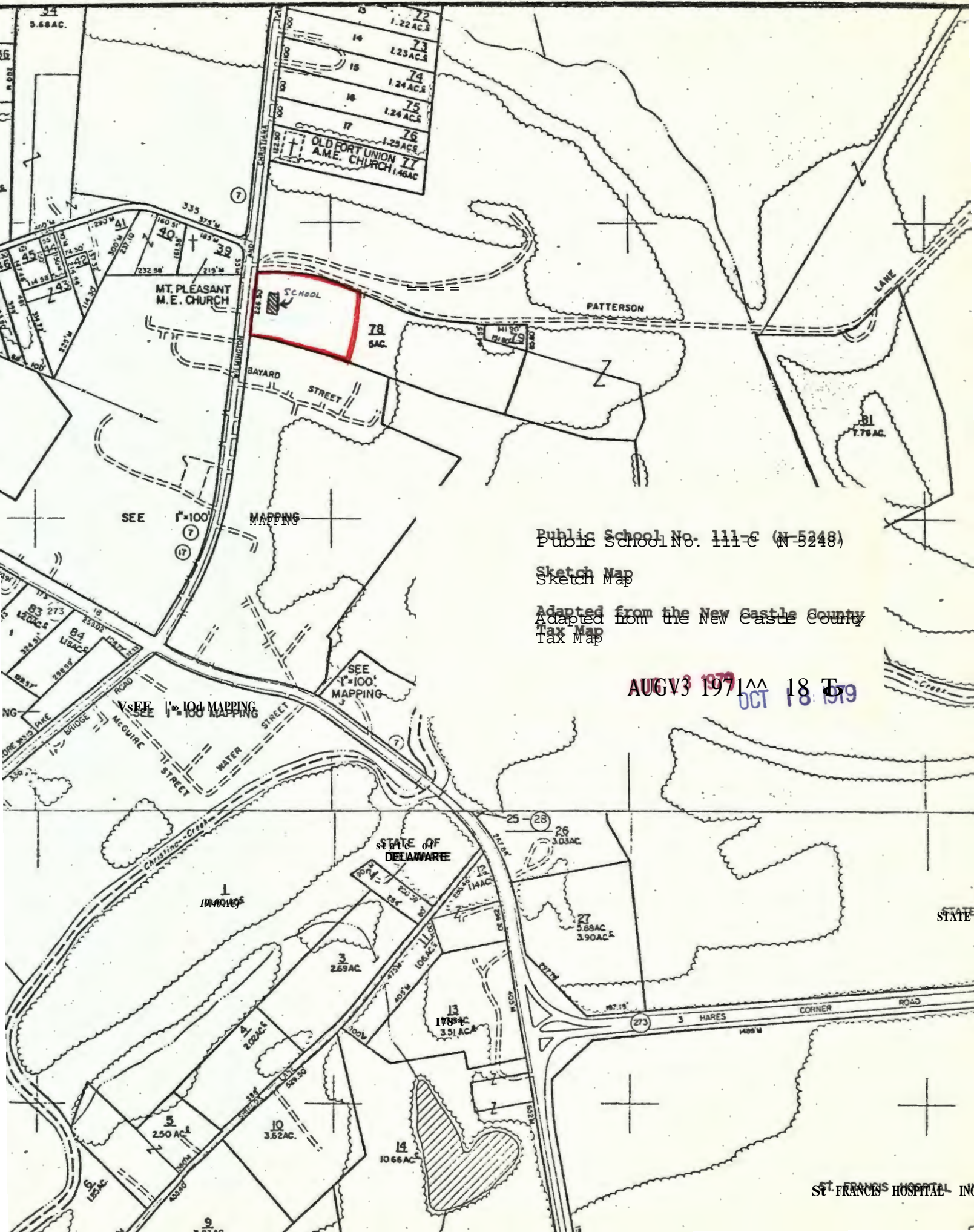
ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

1

in the middle of a private road; thence by the middle of said private road, north fifty-seven degrees thirty minutes west fifty-eight feet and five-tenths of a foot to a point; thence by the middle of said private road north sixty-three degrees eight minutes west one hundred and three feet to a point; thence by the middle of said private road north seventy-eight degrees and thirty-one minutes west one hundred and eighty-two feet to a point in the middle of the public road leading from Christiana to Wilmington; thence south along the middle of said public road, thirteen degrees and twelve minutes west two hundred twenty-six feet and five hundredths of a foot to the place of BEGINNING. Containing within said metes and bounds two acres of land, be the same more or less."



Public School No. 111-C (N-5248)

Sketch Map

Adapted from the New Castle County Tax Map

AUG 3 1971
OCT 18 1979

Property Public School No. 111-C.

State Del. (New Castle) Working Number S. B. 79. 1922

A, # 79000625

TECHNICAL

Photos
Maps

CONTROL

OR th 4/7/79

HISTORIAN

One story, frame public school building ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
built c. 1925 according to a program for small
rural schools designed by a Trenton N. J. architectural
firm. The building program allowed maximum efficiency
of maintenance of 1 or 2 teacher school in addition
to providing for greater comfort for the students.
Hence, school is architecturally signif. as a building
type. Also possesses historical signif. for association
with history of education and philanthropy in State of Dela
ware as well as example of 80 black schools
built with \$900,000 donated by 1920s philanthropist,
Mr. [Name] who enthusiastically + actively sponsored
a building program to construct modern schools
which in the 1920s were still in a de facto
segregated system. Well-documented nomination.

Accept.
Saye
10-19-79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

inventor. _____
Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Saye 7/5/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 11-6-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: 3/4 view of facade; looking north

Photograph Number: 1 of 9 AUG 13 1979

OCT 18

DOE



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: facade; looking east

Photograph Number: 2 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DE

OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Delaware

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: 3/4 view of facade; looking south, furnace
room in foreground.

Photograph Number: 3 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE

OUT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: 3/4 view of rear elevation; looking southwest.

Photograph Number: 4 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE

OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: Rear elevation; looking west; note heavy
horizontal planking exposed where weather-
board is missing.

Photograph Number: 5 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE
OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: detail of facade entrance.

Photograph Number: 6 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE

OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: bookshelves in foyer

Photograph Number: 7 of 9

NCE

AUG 23 1979

601 18 179



Sub: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: Colonial Revival supply closet in northeast
corner of classroom.

Photograph Number: 8 of 9

AUG 13 1979

^{Doc}
OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

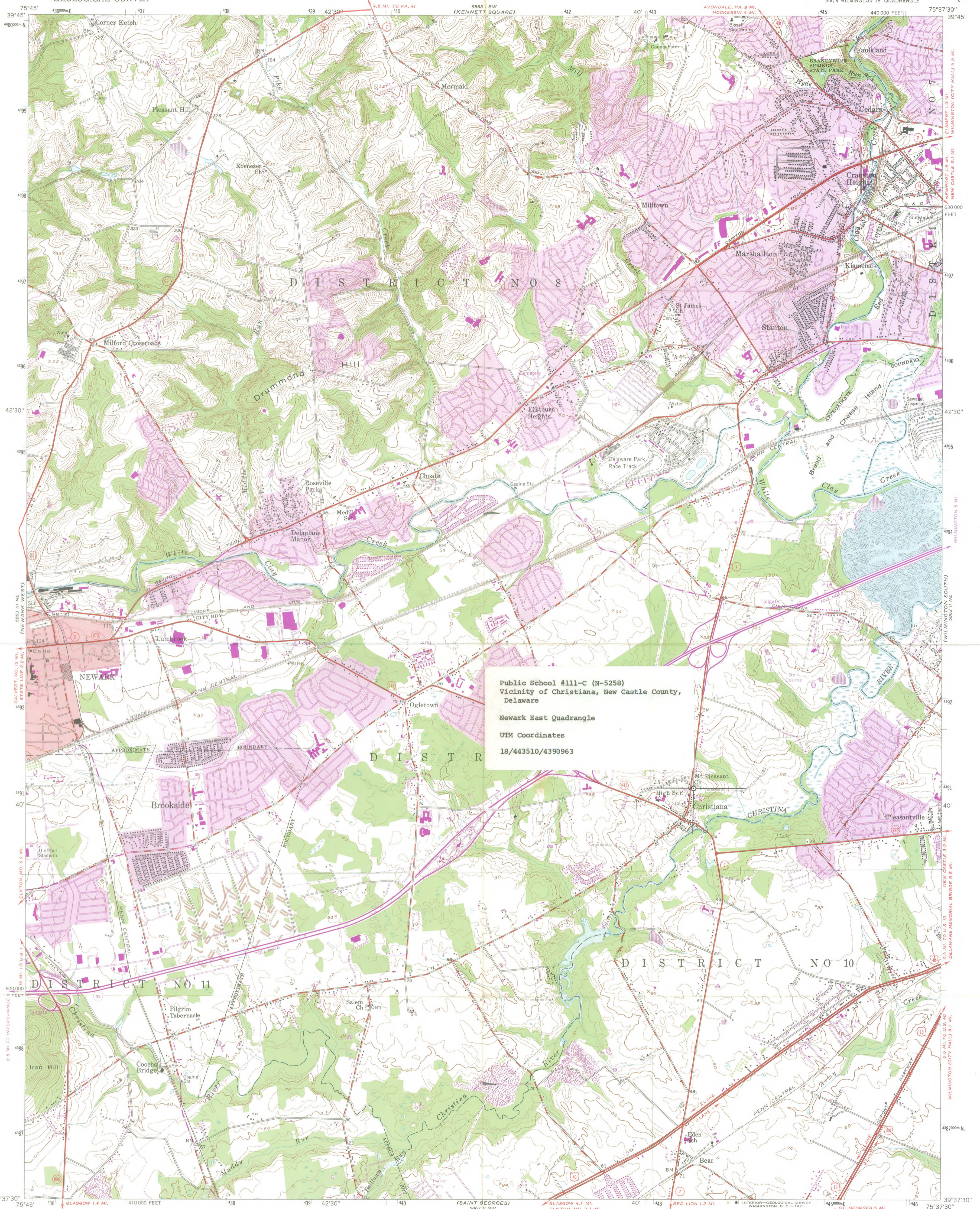
Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: Detail of coat room.

Photograph Number: 9 of 9

AUG 13 1979

Doc
OCT 18 1979

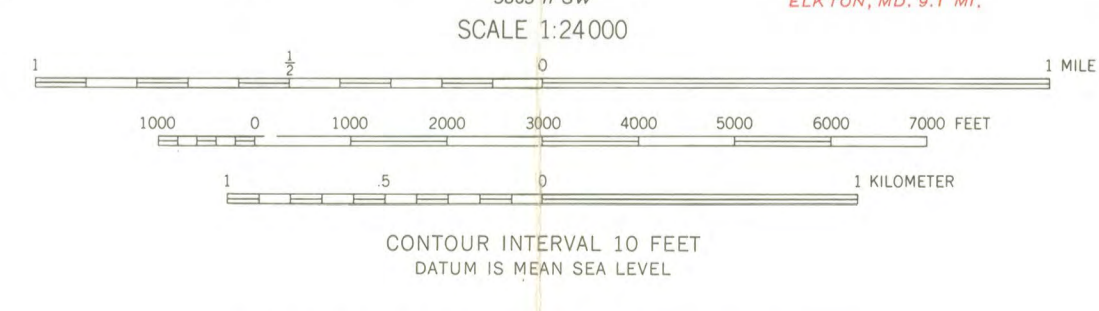
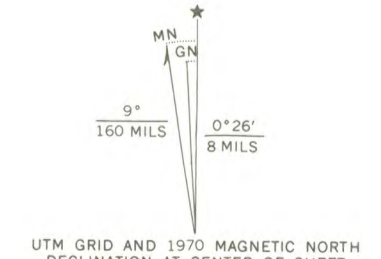


Public School #111-C (N-5258)
Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County,
Delaware

Newark East Quadrangle

UTM Coordinates
18/443510/4390963

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Delaware Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1953
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Delaware coordinate system
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



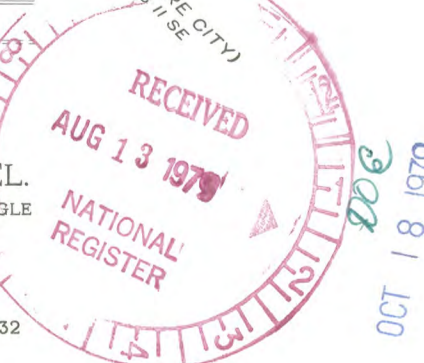
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route



NEWARK EAST, DEL.
NW/4 WILMINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3937.5 - W 7537.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 5863 II NW--SERIES V832



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20542
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



STATE OF DELAWARE
 STATE OF DELAWARE
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
 HALL OF RECORDS • DOVER • 19901
 (302) 678-5314
 (302) 678-5314

BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

August 8, 1979



Mr. Charles Herrington
 Acting Keeper of the National Register
 Office of Archaeology and Historic
 Preservation
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation
 Service
 Department of the Interior
 Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Herrington:

I enclose forms nominating the "Carlton David Pepper Farm," "Public School Number 111-C," and the "John Leweden House" to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding these nominations, please call Dean E. Nelson, Historian at the above number.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel R. Griffith
 Bureau Chief/Deputy State
 Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

STATE OF



DELAWARE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

THE TOWNSEND BUILDING
P.O. BOX 1402
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

KENNETH C. MADDEN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
WILLIAM B. KEENE
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

RANDALL L. BROYLES
HOWARD E. ROW
JOHN J. RYAN
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

August 24, 1979

Mr. Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
United States Department of the Interior, Pension Building
440 G Street N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20243 (ATT: NOM)

Dear Mr. Herrington:

RE: #663 - Public School No. 111-6
Christiana

In answer to your correspondence concerning Christiana Public School #111-6, the State of Delaware is not the owner of record of that property. In 1957 the Delaware State Board of Education granted a restrictive deed for the property to the Christiana Community Center Inc. The title to the property is to remain in the name of this group as long as the property is used for community purposes. If at any time the property is not used for community purposes, the title will revert to the Delaware State Board of Education.

My position is one of support should the Christiana Community Center Inc. make application for Federal Grants in Aid to rehabilitate the building.

The Christiana Community Center Inc. can be contacted in care of:

Mr. William H. Harris
28 Neury Lane
Christiana, De 19702

Phone: AC 302 737-3145

Please contact me if I can supply any additional information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kenneth C. Madden in cursive.
Kenneth C. Madden
State Superintendent

km/dj

CC - Mr. Lawrence G. Henry, Director/Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs
Mr. William Harris

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE RECEIVED **AUG 31 1979**

PROVIDOR'S RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMING MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

1979-12-15

1979-12-15

1979-12-15

1979-12-15

FOR INFORMATION OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

ON 12/15/79 THE STATE OF TEXAS ADVISED THAT THE PROPERTY

IS LOCATED AT 1234567890

IN THE COUNTY OF

STATE OF TEXAS

AND IS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC

BY THE STATE OF TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL TO; FROM (Name)

Dean Nelson

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

AKL STIFFO

3. SUBJECT: PROJECT NO.: ETC:

Public School No. 111 Cy Non.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Major signif. in area of Black history
Minor corrections to non. form:

2 ac.

in 1920s, \$1,000,000 donated by du Pont
for Black schools.

About 80 " " ~~and~~ and 200 white
schools constructed.

Black schools were virtually the
same as physical structures - as the
white schools constructed under du Pont's
school building program.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

SKA

TITLE

OFFICE

NR

~~ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~
~~ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

~~STATE~~ **DELAWARE**
~~STATE~~

~~Date Entered~~ **OCT 18 1979**
~~Date Entered~~

Name
Name

Location
Location

Public School No. 111-C
Public School No. 111-C

Christiana
Christiana
New Castle County
New Castle County

Also Notified
~~Also Notified~~

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.
Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.
Honorable Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

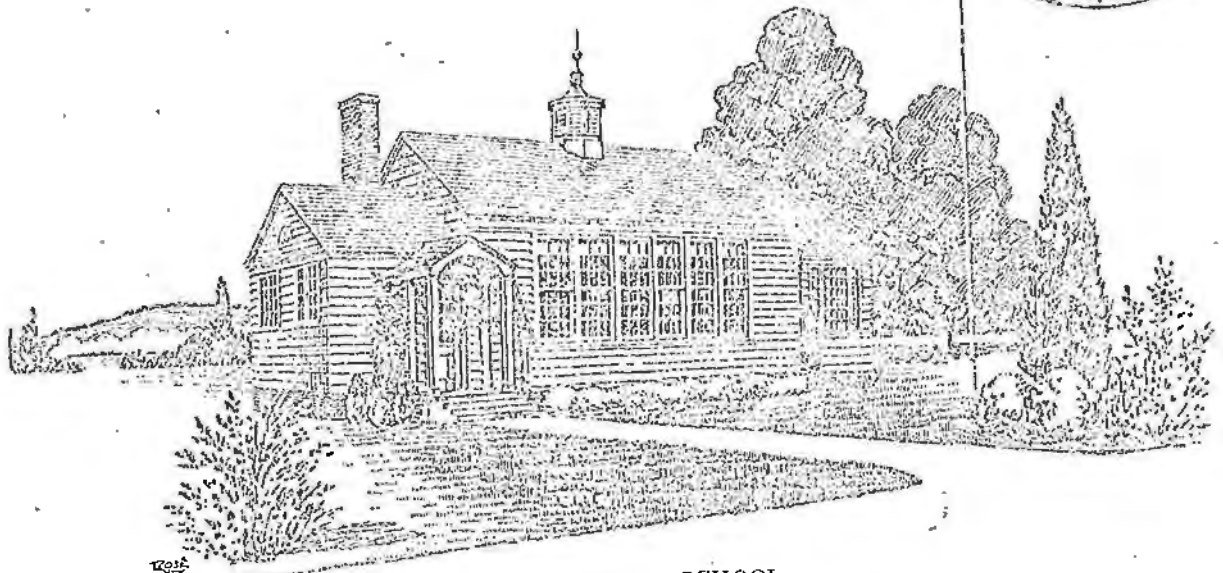
State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Lawrence C. Henry
Director, Division of Historical
and Cultural Affairs
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware 19901

NR Byers/hjr 10/22/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401;

AUG 13 1979

NATIONAL
TEACHER
CONFERENCE



ONE TEACHER SCHOOL

This illustration appeared in an article entitled "New School Buildings, State of Delaware" in The American Architect, June, 1920. The author was James O. Betelle, A.I.A. a partner in Guilbert and Betelle of Trenton, New Jersey, who designed the du Pont fund schools. Public School No. 111-C in Christiana was built according to the above pictured plan, varying slightly in that it lacked the cupola and substituted a gambrel roof.



Determining the Facts

Reading 1: Pierre Samuel du Pont and Delaware's African-American Schools

[How to Use the Readings](#)

[Inquiry Question](#)

[Historical Context](#)

[Maps](#)

[Reading 2](#) [Reading 3](#)

[Images](#)

[Activities](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

The early 20th century in America, a period characterized by nationwide social reform, is often referred to as the Progressive Era. During this period, more and more people recognized that education was the best guarantee of economic success for young people. Delaware's educators were eager to reform their schools, which were often old, too small, and in very poor condition. In fact, according to a 1915 federal study of the quality of education in the states, Delaware ranked in 39th place out of the then 48 states. Reforms were interrupted by the country's involvement in World War I, but in 1919 Delaware adopted a new school code. Among other changes, the code established that schools for African Americans would receive some of the money collected from white taxpayers. The new school code also supported the rebuilding of schools for white students. There was no provision for rebuilding schools for African-American children, however. Concerned about the condition of education in Delaware, philanthropist Pierre Samuel du Pont decided to help pay to have schools in the state rebuilt.

Pierre Samuel du Pont was a member of the family that established the Du Pont Company in the early 19th century in Wilmington, Delaware. Located on the banks of the Brandywine River, which powered mills that manufactured gun powder, the company became a world leader in the explosives industry. In 1919, du Pont resigned as president of the family business and began devoting much of his time to the cause of education, including serving on the State Board of Education. Using his own money, du Pont established a two-million dollar trust fund for remodeling existing school buildings and constructing new ones in Delaware. He designated a substantial amount of that money to build new schools for African-American children.

According to Delaware's new school code, African-American children were subject to mandatory attendance laws requiring all children under age 14 to attend school during the 180-day school year. It was demonstrated through a survey of the place of residence of every African-American child in Delaware that many of the existing schools were inconveniently located. Establishing several, small, single-teacher schools close to centers of population was considered the best solution to address scattered populations and low attendance records. This also would help address the concerns of parents who depended on their children's labor for economic support.

Between 1919 and 1928 du Pont personally financed the construction of more than 80 schools for African Americans. By 1938, after many of the schools for whites and all the schools for African Americans had been rebuilt, Delaware had advanced to eighth place out of the 48 states in terms of the quality of its public education system. In 1926, when

asked by the editor of *Afro-American Magazine* why he had funded these schools, du Pont replied:

If the Delaware experiment proves satisfactory, which I am sure it will, it will be a great incentive to go ahead more quickly in other States....The progress of Delaware schools will bear watching, for on their success must hang the fate of Negro public school education in the United States for many years.¹

¹Pierre S. du Pont to Carl Murphy, March 1, 1926, Pierre S. du Pont Papers, Longwood Manuscripts, Group 10, Series A, File 712, Box 3 (Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware).

1. What were some of the provisions of the 1919 Delaware school code?
2. How did Delaware officials plan to deal with scattered population and low attendance at African-American schools? Do you think this was a reasonable solution? Why or why not?
3. Who was Pierre Samuel du Pont and why did he undertake what he called the "Delaware experiment"? Can the benefits of du Pont's gift be measured? If so, how?

Reading 1 was adapted from Susan Brizzolara Wojcik, "Iron Hill School Number 112C," (New Castle County, Delaware) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1995; and from the Papers of Pierre Samuel du Pont (Courtesy of Hagley Museum and Library).

Continue



Determining the Facts

Reading 2: Progressive School Architecture

A popular belief of the Progressive Era, and one shared by Pierre Samuel du Pont, was that a well-designed school building improved the overall quality of education received by students. Therefore, du Pont wanted to hire the best architect possible for the important work of improving Delaware's education system. He believed that "a school is a highly specialized type of building," and "experimenting with an architect who is not familiar with the latest ideas on school administration, design and construction is likely to prove very costly."² To accomplish his goals, he hired James Oscar Betelle, a nationally-known architect of schools.

In 1920, Betelle wrote an essay entitled "New School Buildings, State of Delaware." In the article he described progressive architecture as a way to create better classrooms so that children would receive a better education. Betelle explained:

The school building program now in progress throughout the State of Delaware is at once the most interesting and probably the most important that has ever been undertaken by any State...nearly all of the school buildings are obsolete and in many cases a menace to the health and safety of the children....It is therefore possible to wipe the slate clean and make a new start. This means that the State will now have what almost amounts to an entirely new school building equipment, located and constructed along most modern lines. The more progressive citizens of the State have long realized that the course of studies and the buildings in which these studies were being taught did not measure up to modern educational requirements....

There will necessarily be a number of very small schools for the colored children, as the colored population in Delaware is scattered in small communities. The colored children will have schools of their own, but there will be no difference in design or construction between the buildings for white children and the buildings for the colored children....

The small rural school is not as simple a problem as it might at first glance seem....From the standpoint of first cost it was possible with the funds available to place the very best systems of heating, running water for drinking purposes, and the installation of water closets. It was not this first cost, however, that was the deciding factor, but the attention and expense that was necessary for proper maintenance after the systems had been installed....After

How to Use the Readings

Inquiry Question

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Reading 1 Reading 3

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Table of Contents

much consideration and investigation it was decided to install chemical toilet fixtures to be reached through the coat rooms inside the small buildings. For the water supply system it was further decided to install a hand pump over a sink in the work room...For heating, a jacketed stove located in an alcove or a furnace placed in a small room outside of the class room was decided upon. It is realized that the jacketed stove will heat and ventilate the class room with considerably less coal than the furnace....A stove in the class room with the attending noise, confusion and dust caused by the putting on of coal and the removal of ashes is very much of a handicap to good instruction work....

The community use of these small schools has always been kept in mind. The class rooms will be fitted with movable desks which can be placed around the walls and the center of the room thus left clear for community meetings or dances....

Everything possible will be done to construct the building in such a way that the maintenance cost can be kept down to the minimum, and when completed, the school will be finished in every way, including the landscape work, walks, drives, etc.

Betelle made some very specific recommendations regarding classroom size and design, which followed national standards of the period. The recommended size for a classroom for 40 students was approximately 24 feet wide by 32 feet long. Natural light was considered one of the most important factors for a new school. The standards called for the natural light source to be unilateral (meaning one-sided), and to come from the pupils' left side as they sat in their chairs facing the teacher in the front of the classroom. The light would be provided by a bank of windows filling the wall and rising almost to the ceiling. To avoid too much light and glare at the front of the classroom, the windows would stop at least seven feet from the corner with the front wall. The building would be placed on its lot so that the light would not come through the bank of windows directly from the north or south. Furthermore, every room would have a closet for the storage of books and supplies. The blackboards would hang at the front of the room and on the wall opposite the windows. Seats would be moveable and adjustable. Room would be provided to hang hats and coats. The recommendations also specified play equipment, and a place to prepare hot lunches.

²Pierre S. du Pont to Board of Education, October 15, 1932, Pierre S. du Pont Papers, Longwood Manuscripts, Group 10, Series A, File 712, Box 5 (Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware).

1. Why did du Pont want to hire a nationally-known architect of schools?
2. Why was it necessary to provide several small schools for African Americans rather than fewer, larger schools?
3. Why did Betelle decide not to recommend that the very best systems of heating, running water, and toilets be installed?
4. Betelle wrote that "the community use of these small schools has always been kept in mind." What community functions could the building serve? Is your school also used for community purposes? If so, what are they?
5. What are some of the features and furnishings of progressive architecture described in the reading? Why do you think these features were considered progressive at the time?

Reading 2 was adapted from James Oscar Betelle, "New School Buildings, State of Delaware," American Architect 117 (June 1920): 751-788; James Oscar Betelle, "Architectural Styles as Applied to School Buildings," The American School Board Journal 58 (April 1919): 75-76; and two reports containing the standards for progressive schools, George D. Strayer, N.L. Engelhardt, and F.W. Hart, General Report on School Buildings and Grounds of Delaware (Wilmington, Delaware: Service Citizens of Delaware, 1919); and Report and Recommendations on Certain School Buildings in Delaware (Wilmington, Delaware: Service Citizens of Delaware, 1919).

Continue

(a copy of this letter was mailed
to you in Feb. 1954)

Mr. R. L. Herbert,
Asst. Supt. In Charge
Of Building Administration

In answering your letter concern
the use of the 111C School building at
Christiana Delaware.

In 1952 when the school was closed
the building was released to the 111
Dist. We the people met and formed an
organization called the Christiana
Community of 111C. With Chas Johnson &
~~Herbert~~ Neal Vice Pres.; Wm Neal Sec. and
Edward Munce Treas.; Directors Rich. Neal;
Rev. Wm Harris, Rev. Milton Jackson and Robt Ear
These Officers + Directors were elected to
see that the buildings and grounds we
kept in good form and to see that whenever
the building was used a correct and respon
person was in charge. The meeting of the
Group were the last Wednesday in every
month. It has been used quite often for
socials, parties, dances, Rummage sales and
Bazars, the grounds for picnics and ball game
I am unable to give exact dates as I am not
a secretary of the Present Group — L. rec

Wm. Neal

CHRISTINA COLORED SCHOOLSTANTON ROAD

This is a one and one half story no basement, frame clapboard one room building, peaked wood shingle roof, interior finish, wood lath and plaster side walls and ceiling, wood floors, trim and doors, heat is furnished by a drum stove; desks and chairs not attached.

Total cubic feet	31,366
Cube factor .216 =	\$6,775.00
Depreciation 15%	<u>1,016.26</u>
Estimated Value	\$5,758.74
Call	\$5,750.00



DELAWARE



ROBIN BROWN/THE NEWS JOURNAL

Katelyn Fair (left) of the Delaware Public Archives unveils a state historical marker at Christiana's former school for African American children, to the applause of village residents Theresa Warren (center) and Mabel Cole.

New sign marks renewed effort to save old school



DELAWARE BACKSTORY ROBIN BROWN

About two dozen folks gathered on a recent Sunday at Christiana Public School 111-C on North Old Baltimore Pike for an occasion of historic significance in the village where I grew up and live.

A state historical marker – sponsored by Sen. Karen Peterson and Rep.

Mike Barbieri – was unveiled at the old school, one of few left from a statewide network philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont built for African-American children during segregation.

The “C” in the school name stood for “Colored.”

Schools in the system later were closed, before and during integration, this one was given to a group of villagers who formed the “Christiana Community Center” group.

As a kid, I went to sock hops there. As an adult, I inherited my parents’ membership in the group – always about community and never about color, like village life in general.

But as kids my age grew up and moved away, and many of those first involved in the center passed away, the building stood vacant.

In 1990, a fire nearly destroyed it.

And what was left would have been lost if not for Lavenia Neal Cole. Her family originally donated the land for the school site and she was among the beloved village elders who were proud alumni.

She looked out her window every day on the charred remains until the heartache made her act.

She asked at church one Sunday if anyone wanted to try to save the school. She pulled together a group, mainly alumni, who held barbecues and bake sales over the years to raise funds for repairs.

There were a few grants and some work got done, but there never was enough to finish the job.

Cole recruited civil rights and community leader Littleton P. Mitchell, one of my parents’ best friends, to spearhead a new effort to save the place – but both passed away.

For years, there was no progress.

But a small group has restarted Cole’s effort.

Not long ago, group member Mabel Cole, Lavenia’s daughter-in-law, contacted Peterson about the idea of the historical marker.

Peterson admitted, “My first reaction was ‘No,’ because I don’t think we should be reminded of a shameful past.”

On second thought, Peterson – who later recruited Barbieri to split the cost – said the school and marker should “serve as a constant reminder ... [that] we never want to go back to the days of separate, because this was not equal.”

Katelyn Fair of the Delaware Public Archives, who unveiled the marker, said many “du Pont schools” have been lost.

Another marker is being processed for the site of the Milton school, she said but it “deteriorated so badly it had to be razed.”

Peterson said she and Barbieri “also pledge to help to do whatever we can to get the community center up and running.”

Many at the ceremony – including Lavenia Neal Cole’s sister Mary Neal Cale and nephew James Neal – said “Miss Lavenia” would have been proud.

Those of us who were proud to know her certainly hope so.

Do you have a Delaware Backstory? Tell robin brown at (302) 324-2856, rbrown@delawareonline.com, on Facebook, via Twitter @rbrowndelaware or The News Journal, Box 15505, Wilmington, DE 19850.



Valerie Ceana stands before the historic Christiana Colored School, which she attended as a child. It was damaged by fire on Feb.

Fire guts tiny bit of black past

Christiana school
on historic register

By **SANDY DENNISON**
Staff reporter

CHRISTIANA — A piece of Delaware's past crumbled, ironically, on the first day of Black History Month.

A fire Thursday evening ate away the inside of the former Christiana Colored School, built in the 1920s and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The school was unique as an intact example of the one-teacher schools that once dotted Delaware and as one of only a few preserved buildings nationwide that relate to black history, according to Valerie Ceana, historic pres-

ervation planner for New Castle County.

"Oh, it's pitiful-looking. It's just gutted," said Thelma Johnson, a neighbor who entered the school on Baltimore Pike 60 years ago as a year-old. "It's just so near gone that doubt you could do anything with, called my sister and told her, 'Our a mater's gone.'"

"I hope they restore it," said Lay Cole of Bayard Street, who after the school in the late 1920s and e 30s and who researched its past Black History Month last year. "There's a lot of memories there. I

School blaze: Fire guts a piece of black history

FROM PAGE B1

almost in tears when I saw it going up [Thursday] night."

The blaze left the shell standing but damaged the roof and all but destroyed the building's structural supports.

Howard M. McMillan, assistant deputy chief state fire marshal, said the blaze was caused by "some type of human involvement," but he was not sure it had been set or was an accident.

The building is unsafe now, but could be salvaged, said McMillan, who has lived in the area 25 years and said he'd hate to see it lost.

"I'd think it's possible [to repair] but it's going to take a lot of money and a lot of care," McMillan said.

Money and care may be hard to come by, despite the building's significance. Murky ownership and lack of interest left it boarded up in the first place. Despite historians' admiration and older neighbors' affection, the school declined from neglect.

"It just seems like such a loss," said Harmon R. Carey, president of the Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware. The society thinks someone should inventory the state's former black schools and assess whether they could be renovated for community use. Carey said his group is busy with other projects.

"It's a shame," Cesna agreed. "There are so few buildings related to black history that survive. There are only a handful on the National Register." In fact, one-room schools of its vintage — whether used by blacks or whites — are rare, she said.

"It was a very well-preserved example of what were called the du Pont schools" — about 80 schools built with donations from Pierre S. du Pont, Cesna said. "Surprisingly, it had remained un-

home," she explained.

The school — one of his first — was dedicated by du Pont himself in 1906, Cole said. It was considered up-to-date, with a separate room for toilets, a coat room and a pump room.

"I loved it. One teacher taught all the classes. She would go from one group to the next right on up the grades," remembered Cole, who turns 68 this year.

Delmus Neal, 52, of nearby Moody Blace, said as the fire burned Thursday night that 20 or 25 children attended with him.

Johnson, who lives on Browns

Department of Public Instruction.

The state turned over Christiana Colored School plus several acres to the Christiana Community Center Inc. in 1957, Nichols said. Residents used the building for dinners and games such as pool for 25 years, according to neighbors. Then the building fell into disrepair.

The agreement granting the school to the community center allows the State Board of Education to take it back if the community stops using the building. A veterans group sought to take over the school in 1979.

"It's a shame. There are so few buildings related to black history that survive. There are only a handful on the National Register . . . it was a very well-preserved example of what were called the du Pont schools . . . Surprisingly, it had remained unaltered."

VALERIE CESNA

Lane and said the school is practically in her back yard, clearly remembers when it closed in the early 1950s due to low enrollment.

Her daughter, now 41, attended the neighborhood school at first but had to switch to the Absalom Jones school in Belvidere. — "She had to get on the bus as a baby child and go up there," Johnson said.

That was just after the historic 1954 Supreme Court decision that struck down "separate but equal" schools for blacks, but black students still had to attend segregated schools in Delaware.

It wasn't until the mid-1960s that most of the segregated schools began combining. In the ensuing 1969 educational consolidation, the last of the state's one-room schoolhouses in Houston

That prompted community center leaders to join with the Christiana Historical Society to fix up the outside of the school, and the state kept the agreement in place. Residents boarded up the windows to keep vandals out and the building was placed on the National Register.

The Christiana Community Center tried unsuccessfully for several years to get businesses and residents to donate money to make the school into a recreation center for the area's youth and senior citizens, said Lawrence C. Jackson Jr. of Moody Place.

Jackson was designated president of the center by the former president before he died.

Since then, the only occupants of the old shell have been vandals and junk.

one had regularly been squatting there recently.

About 45 firefighters from the Christiana and Aetna of Newark fire companies fought the fire, which brought the building to smoky ruins in an hour. Flames were shooting six to eight feet out the front door at the height of the blaze, firefighters said.

"If it sits there for any period of time, I'm afraid it'll collapse," McMillan said.

Complicating the situation is the cloudy ownership. Before the fire, both Nichols and Jackson often got inquiries from people interested in claiming the building for development or an office, but both would tell those who asked that they didn't control the property. Jackson said he's never seen the deed, and he thought the building had reverted to the state because it was no longer used by the community.

To complicate the situation, county records say the old school belongs to the Christina School District because the state board inadvertently deeded it over to the forerunner Newark district in 1939. The 1957 action invalidated that, a deputy attorney general decided in 1979.

Cole, who was involved in the attempt to restore the building 10 years ago, said that only a few months ago she and some other community members were talking about trying to reopen the building.

The Christiana Historical Society doesn't meet anymore, said former president Sylvia Jones.

"I doubt if there's enough interest" to restore the building, she said.

Jackson agreed: "Judging from my past experience, I don't see anybody in the community giving



News-Journal file/WILLIAM BRETZGER

In 2002, Lavenia N. Cole stands in front of the building where she went to school as a child and helped to save.

Lavenia N. Cole dies; saved old Christiana school

By ROBIN BROWN
The News-Journal

With the death of Lavenia N. Cole, old Christiana lost a lifelong resident who graduated from the village's segregated school for black children and later saved the historic building.

Cole, 82, died at home May 25.

She will be buried today at Gracelawn Memorial Park after an 11 a.m. funeral at Old Fort DAME Church on North Old Baltimore Pike in Christiana, across from the old school.

Built around 1918, the school was a model for a statewide system of one-teacher schools for black students, a \$2.5 million gift from philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont.

An arsonist nearly destroyed the long vacant school in 1990.

Cole, widow of the late Edward Cole Jr., saw its shell daily from her home; she once told The News-Journal. The sight broke her heart, she said.

One Sunday at church, she rose to ask if fellow alumni would help her save the building to become a village community center. She and other residents formed Christiana Community Center Inc., raising money through periodic barbecues and cleanups.

The effort was noted in historian Jeanne Nutter's 2003 documentary, "A Separate Place: The Schools P.S. du Pont Built." At its debut, Cole's son, Darius, of Middletown, said he was proud to see her work recognized.

Delaware owes Lavenia Cole an inestimable debt, said Harmon R. Carey, who was involved in the project through the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. "She was the first to see the need and call out to save the old du Pont schools," he said.

But progress was slow. Many who answered Cole's call to save Public School 111-C — the C stood for "colored" — died, lost energy or moved to nursing homes.

As Cole's health sidelined her, the group she formed reorganized to keep up the effort, said president Theresa Warren.

Without Cole, there would be no school left to save, she said. Donations in her memory are being accepted by Christiana Community Center Inc., in care of Warren, at 1607 Barnaby St., Christiana, DE 19702, she said.

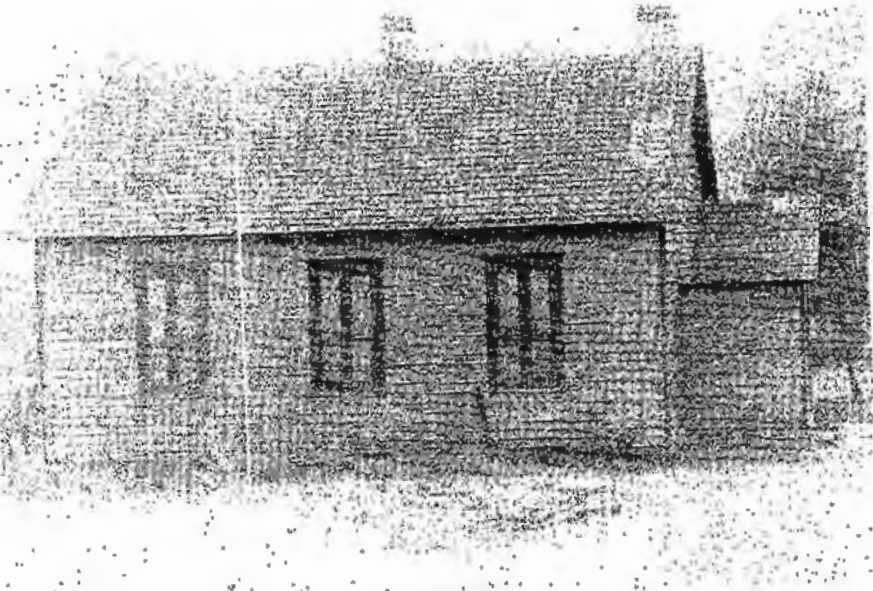
The project also has support of the village's recently reorganized historical society, said president



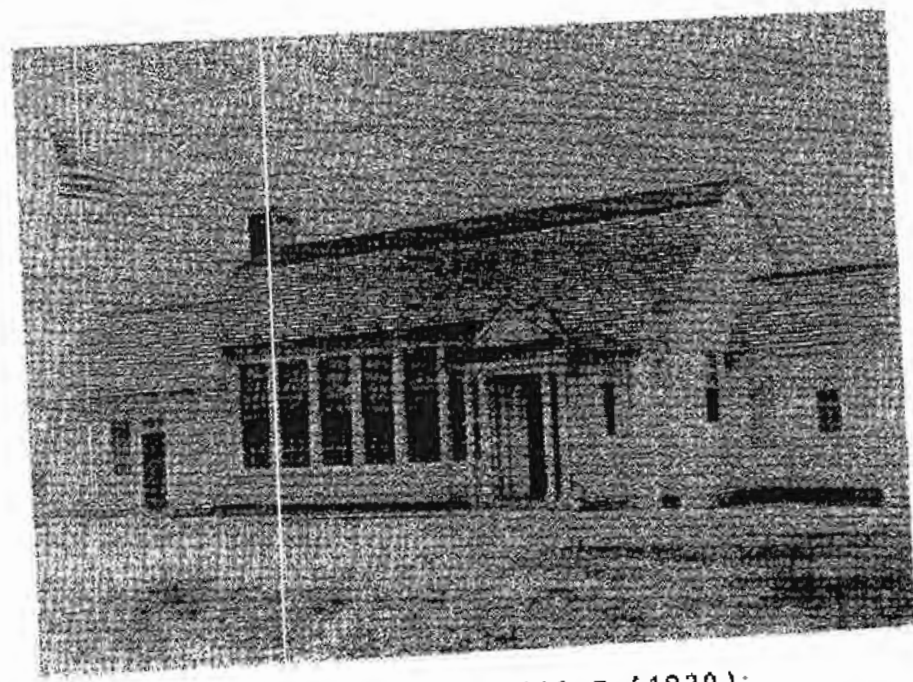
PROFILE

Name: Lovenia Cole
Age: 76
Residence: Christiana
Notable: Started a group to save Christiana's former elementary school for black children for use as a community center

1920s, wire
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CHRISTIANA NO. 111-C (1918)



CHRISTIANA NO. 111-C (1920)

thropist Pierre S. du Pont.
The school's big windows faced North Old Baltimore Pike and Old Port U.A.M.E. Church, the church Cole and her family attended.
"I guess I saw that school nearly every day of my life," she said with fondness.

For many years, she saw it boarded and vacant. About 10 years ago, she acted.

Just one day I put a notice into the church bulletin, to say, would anyone be interested in trying to fix up the old school?

Within a few meetings, the Christiana Community Center project was born. But an arsonist nearly erased the dream in 1990.

One of Cole's fellow alumni and renovation supporter Thelma E. Johnson called the sight of the charred remains "heartbreaking."

But the dozens of supporters were not defeated.

Harmon R. Carey, executive assistant for African-American heritage in the state Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs, got involved at the group's request after the fire.

At the center's recent bake sale and barbecue fund-raiser at the school, Carey and contractor Buster Snow paused during a walk through the building.

"It's a beautiful project," said Snow, whose crews are clearing the debris. "The residents deserve a lot of credit."

Carey agreed. "Many people would have given up long ago."

Counting \$500 from the recent sale, the residents have raised nearly \$11,000. In addition, Carey got a \$2,000 planning grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and helped rustle up about \$14,000 in state grant money.

And Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp, D-Pinecrest, pushed to have \$25,000 included in the Grant-in-Aid legislation for the project. Accumulated cash should cover the cost of initial construction, maybe roofing and the architect's plan for its next incarnation, Cole and Carey agree.

► To help: Tax-deductible contributions to Christiana Community Center may be sent to 3 Bayard Street, Christiana 19702.

Grant aids effort to restore school

Landmark of segregation needs repair

By **ROBIN BROWN**
Bear Bureau reporter

Elderly Christiana residents decade long effort to save the historic village's old black school is getting a boost from a grant that will pay for the design of the building's interior.

"Oh my, that's wonderful," organizer Lavecia Cole said when she learned of the \$500 grant. "Progress has been awfully awfully slow."

Arson nearly destroyed the long vacant building in 1990. Saddened by the view of the charred hull from her home, Cole later began recruiting fellow alumni and formed a non-profit group whose goal was to rebuild the school, built in 1918 as a community center.

The planning grant, to help preserve one of the few remaining black schools from Delaware's segregated past, is one of 10 awards this month from the nonprofit First State Preservation Revolving Fund Inc.

"I hope giving this grant will spark some renewed interest in bringing this project to completion," said John H. Shields Jr., who announced the awards.

Harmon R. Carey, who has

shepherded the effort since the mid-1990s for the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, said fund-raising has been slow and any money raised was spent saving the building.

About \$81,000 in grants and donations, along with about \$11,000 raised by villagers, did not even pay for architectural planning, rebuilding the school's burned north end, roofing and repairs.

"We are experiencing a \$10,000 shortfall to be able to pay for the exterior," Carey said.

Architect and project supporter Desmond Baker, president of Endecon Inc., has agreed to plan the interior for \$500, Carey said. The interior will be designed not to re-create the old school but to function as a community center.

Carey said the finished design will help determine the ultimate cost of the project.

Philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont built the school, Public School 111-C, with "C" for "colored" - in 1918 as the statewide model for such one-teacher facilities that closed with integration in the 1950s. Du Pont eventually built 80 schools in Delaware at a cost of more than \$2.5 million in what was the na-



Lavecia Cole, an alumna of Public School 111-C, stands Friday in front of the one-time school for black children in Christiana.

The News Journal/WILLIAM BRETZGER

tion's only statewide system of such schools.

Shields and Walter S. Rowland, vice president of the revolving fund, recently met Cole at the school on North Old Baltimore Pike.

Rowland told Cole he is seeking a suitable school bell, which he hopes to hear her ring on the day the building reopens as a community center.

Cole said she is saddened that the effort has taken more than a decade. She worries that remaining alumni might not see the project get finished.

"It needs to get a move on," said Edith Neal, Cole's next-door neighbor, who moved to the village in the 1950s.

Since villagers began the effort, Neal's husband, William, and other alumni have died. Others, mainly in their 70s and 80s, have moved to nursing homes, lost interest or no longer

Recipients plan improvements

Here are other \$500 2002 grants from the First State Preservation Revolving Fund Inc.

■ Seaford Historical Society Inc. one grant to restore the cupola at the Governor Ross Mansion on Pine Street, second grant for window repair at the Seaford Museum, the old post office that the society is restoring.

■ Historic Red Clay Valley Inc. to repair Wilmington & Western Railroad's Yorklyn station.

■ Maureen R. McGovern, Wilmington, to stabilize old mill ruins on the Brandywine riverbank near Superfine Lane.

■ Karen Cebenka, Delaware City, to make structural repairs at her home, the Captain Maxwell House, built in the 1850s.

■ Eric R. Dressler, North St. Georges, for lead paint abatement of his home in North St. Georges' historic district.

■ Kenneth Novak, Milford, to plan restoration and stabilize a brick slave quarters at Causey Mansion.

■ Milford New Century Club, to add handicap access to its building, which dates to 1898.

■ Zwaanendael Club, Lewes, for window repair and brick painting on the facade of the club's 1898 building on Savannah Road.

Projects must be finished by June 1, 2003.

TO HELP

Tax-deductible donations to help rebuild old Public School 111-C may be sent to the Christiana Community Center, 3 Bayard St., Christiana, DE 19702. The public also is invited to join the group. Membership fees of \$10 a year for individuals, \$15 for families and \$25 for organizations may be sent to the same address.

To arrange donations of time or building materials, supplies or labor, call Harmon R. Carey at 577-5049.

have the energy to work on the building or raise money.

"There's only a handful of us left," Cole said, "and we aren't getting any younger."

Reach robin brown at 338-3199 or rbrown@delawareonline.com.



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: 3/4 view of facade; looking north

Photograph Number: 1 of 9 AUG 13 1979

OCT 18 1



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: facade; looking east

Photograph Number: 2 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE
OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Delaware

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: 3/4 view of facade; looking south, furnace
room in foreground.

Photograph Number: 3 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE

OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: 3/4 view of rear elevation; looking southwest.

Photograph Number: 4 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE
OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: Rear elevation; looking west; note heavy
horizontal planking exposed where weather-
board is missing.

Photograph Number: 5 of 9

AUG 13 1979

DOE
OCT. 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: detail of facade entrance.

AUG 13 1979

Photograph Number: 6 of 9

DE

OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: bookshelves in foyer

Photograph Number: 7 of 9

DOE

AUG 13 1979

OCT 18 1979



~~Sub:~~ Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

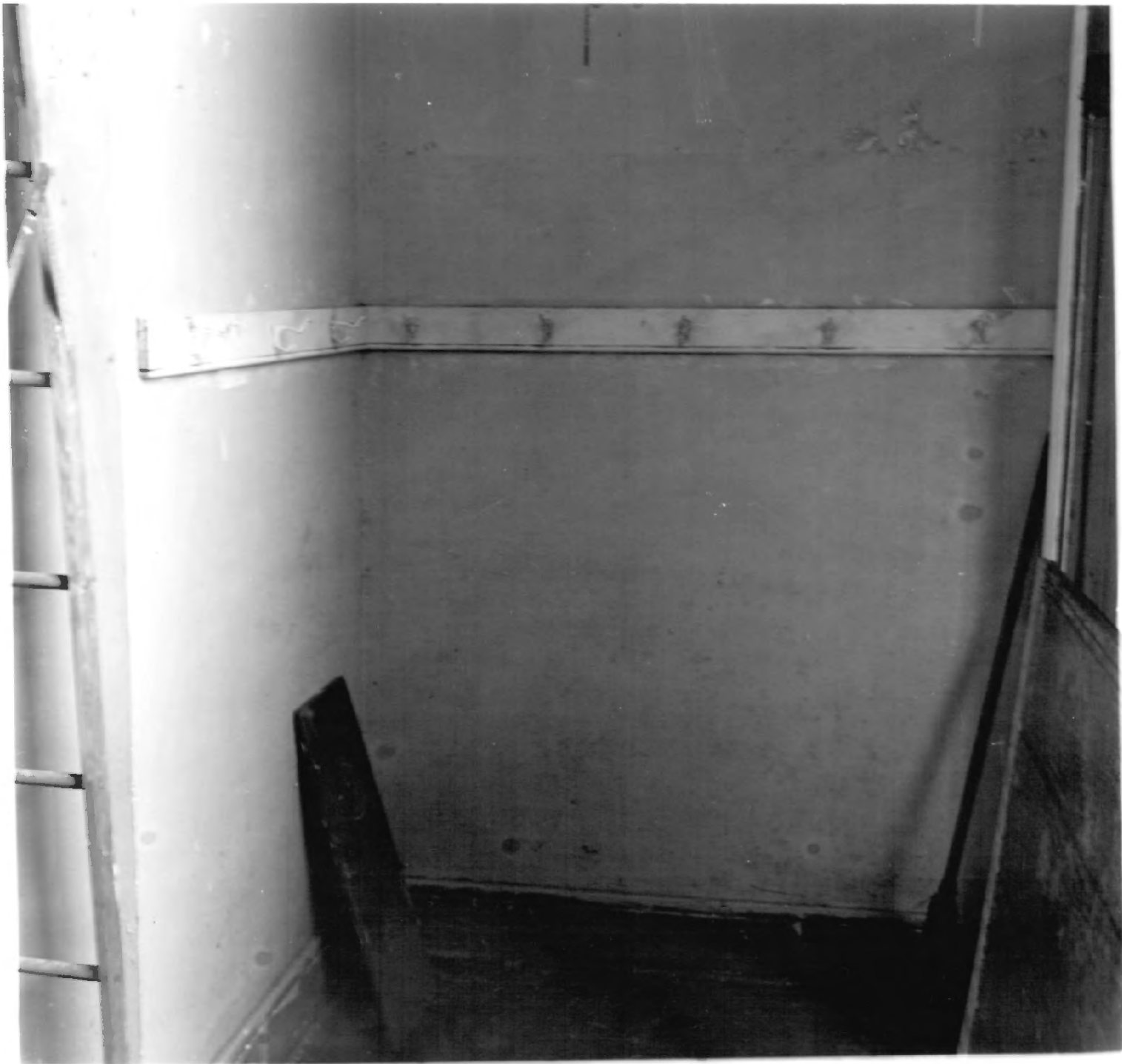
Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: Colonial Revival supply closet in northeast
corner of classroom.

Photograph Number: 8 of 9

AUG 13 1979

^{Doc}
OCT 18 1979



Name: Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)

Location: Vicinity of Christiana, New Castle County, Del.

Photographer: Dean E. Nelson

Date: June, 1979

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: Detail of coat room.

Photograph Number: 9 of 9

AUG 13 1979

OCT 18 1979
DOE