

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 100-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Millsboro School

other names/site number Delaware CRS #S-09132

2. Location

street and number 302 East State Street not for publication

city or town Millsboro vicinity

state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19966

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain). _____	_____	_____

Millsboro School
Name of Property

Sussex County, Delaware
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1928-1961

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Millsboro School
Name of Property

Sussex County, Delaware
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.08 acres

UTM References (NAD 83)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,890</u>	<u>4,271,412</u>	3	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,986</u>	<u>4,271,314</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18N</u>	<u>475,005</u>	<u>4,271,369</u>	4	<u>18N</u>	<u>475,076</u>	<u>4,271,276</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Courtney L. Clark/Project Architectural Historian

organization John Milner Associates, Inc. date September 2010

street & number 1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor telephone 215-561-7637

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

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

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Millsboro School
Sussex County, Delaware

Description

Narrative Description

This property is located east of Main Street, along the south side of East State Street. Millsboro Cemetery abuts the east side of property, masked by tall hedges, and Wilson highway lies to the west. The school building stands towards the northwestern corner of the parcel, with an internal roadway circling the immediate east and south sides. Athletic fields make up the remainder of the property. Hedges and a few trees decorate the front lawn of the building, but the primary focus is a centralized walkway that leads from the public sidewalk that fronts the entire width of the property to the front entrance of the building.

The two-story, brick, school building is set back from the roadway and faces north-northeast towards State Street. Though originally T-shaped in plan, its many additions to the rear have made it into a rectangle. The façade is symmetrical and is pierced by a centralized main entrance bay flanked by four window bays to both sides. The entrance bay contains three, separate, arched-framed entries, each topped by decorative fanlight transoms. The words "Millsboro Middle School" are carved within the frieze of the entablature that surrounds the center-most entrance. Above these openings are three separate window bays on the second floor. This entire central bay area is sheltered by a large open, full-height, pedimented portico, supported by wood, square-shaped columns on concrete decking. The entrance is flanked by three bays of ribbon-style windows on both sides. Each opening features one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash windows framed by decorative wood panel lintels and plain concrete sills. The bays that anchor both ends of the façade have no openings, but instead have brick designs that mimic the window openings in the other bays, which provides the building with a sense of balance and symmetry. A decorative brick belt course spans the entire façade between the first and second levels of the building, and a water table is featured along the foundation level of the building. Various additions are visible in both sidewalls and the rear elevation of the building. Each wall or section south of the main block is asymmetrical and complex and includes a variety of building materials and designs. The same is true of the rooftop.

The interior of the school retains only a few of the original elements. The auditorium is still featured in its original location, centered behind the front entrance bay, and it retains a large stage area. Short staircases flank both sides of the stage, and the front panels of the stage platform are highlighted with decorative woodwork. The once small, one-room dressing/storage closet on the west side of the stage has been converted into an office for the building custodian. Also retained, though modernized, are the corridor layouts, stairs, and a few multi-paneled wood, closet doors within the front main block.

Athletic fields lie to east and south sides of the building. An oval-shaped paved track is featured to the south, and appears on historic aerials as early as 1961.

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Millsboro School Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance

Narrative Statement of Significance

The school was evaluated under the context of public education in southern Delaware. Built in the late 1920s, the school is representative of the consolidation of smaller dispersed schools of the area. This was a significant trend in the early twentieth century with regards to public education in Delaware. The building has served educational purposes for over eighty years, and continues to do so. The school has undergone modern alterations including replacement of windows and doors and the construction of multiple additions, but with its intact front landscape of open lawn and pathways leading from the road to the front entrance, and its columned entry and horizontal ribbons of windows, it still conveys its historic use as a public institution on a grand scale. Overall, the school retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as representative of an early twentieth-century consolidated educational facility enlarged during the historic period to accommodate a growing student population.

Historical Narrative

Historically, this school was referred to as the Millsboro School, though it was also once known as the Sussex Central Middle School. It is currently the Millsboro Middle School.

As seen on the Beers Atlas of 1868, the Millsboro area was designated "District 23" for schools (see Figure 3). In 1880 the district was split, giving the area two districts (Nos. 23 and 161) and two state appropriations. Just three years later, an act was passed to consolidate the two districts under the title "The Millsboro Public School." Soon thereafter, a school was built at the southwest corner of Morris and Church Streets, at the present day site of Grace United Methodist Church. The Principal's annual report for 1885 showed that there were 2 teachers, 65 students, and 2 departments, Primary and Grammar. Thirty years later the school had 4 teachers, 173 students, and offered grades 1-8. Though enlarged with an addition, by 1917 enrollment had increased to such an extent that some classes had to meet elsewhere, in some cases in buildings around town (Hudson 1975:12-13). A 1919 map of Delaware schools does not denote the location of the Millsboro School, but does show the (former) district numbers, "SCH.23-23 ½, 161-161 ½" (Mueller 1919).

As noted on the date stone on the façade of the building, the Millsboro School was constructed in 1928 on eight acres of land, and housed elementary through high school level grades. A cast iron plaque hanging within the east corridor of the first level reads:

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Millsboro School Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance (cont.)

Historical Narrative (cont.)

MILLSBORO SCHOOL
Erected 1928

BUILDING COMMISSION
George S. Williams, Chairman
Edwin C. Ryan, Vice Chairman
Jacob A. Burton, Acting Secretary
Clarence Lingo
William D. Steele
Lewis M. Price
J. Pearce Cann
Joseph S. Wilson
Harry V. Holloway, Secretary

Guilbert & Betelle
Architects
THE FARMVILLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.
General Contractor
LEWIS MORGAN & SON
Heating & Plumbing Contractors

A 1927 Sussex County Board of Education photograph shows the building shortly before completion, and a 1929 Sanborn Insurance map (Sanborn Map Company 1929) confirms some of the design details. The building was T-shaped, with an auditorium projecting rearward from the center of the front block. Only the center core of the front block was two-stories in height, with one-story extensions to the east and west. A small covered entrance extended from the center of the façade. Another photograph taken by the County Board of Education in 1931 illustrates the arrangement and design of a typical classroom.

Over the course of the next ten years, consolidation with nine other surrounding schools occurred. To accommodate the additional students, several building programs were instituted, including ones in 1932, 1950, and 1956 (Hudson 1975:13-14). The early 1930s addition contained a cafeteria. Prior to this point, students were served soup by the home economics class or brought their own lunch (Murray 1987:81-84). By the 1940s, the appearance of the school had changed dramatically, as seen in a postcard picture taken at that time. The one-story extensions to the east and west of the central entrance block had been made two stories, and additions were constructed at each end of the façade wall, extending the building to the south.

Millsboro High School was one of the first schools in the state to offer drivers' education (Murray 1987:81-84). Interesting facts about the school include the establishment of a Parent-Teacher Association in 1941, which assisted in purchasing the first school band uniforms. This would become a fundraising project in years after (Hudson 1975:14).

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Millsboro School
Sussex County, Delaware

Major Bibliographic References

Hudson, Dorothy Warren

1975 *Millsboro, Delaware: Bicentennial Commemoration*. Dover Graphics, Dover, DE.

Mueller, A.H.

1919 *Map of the Delaware River: The Clyde of America and the State of Delaware*. Philadelphia, PA.

Murray, Aubrey P.

1987 *Rambling Around Millsboro*. The Countian Press, Georgetown, DE.

Sanborn Map Company.

1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map - Millsboro, Delaware. Available at The Delaware Historical Society Research Library, Wilmington, Delaware.

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Millsboro School Sussex County, Delaware

Geographical Data

UTM References (additional)

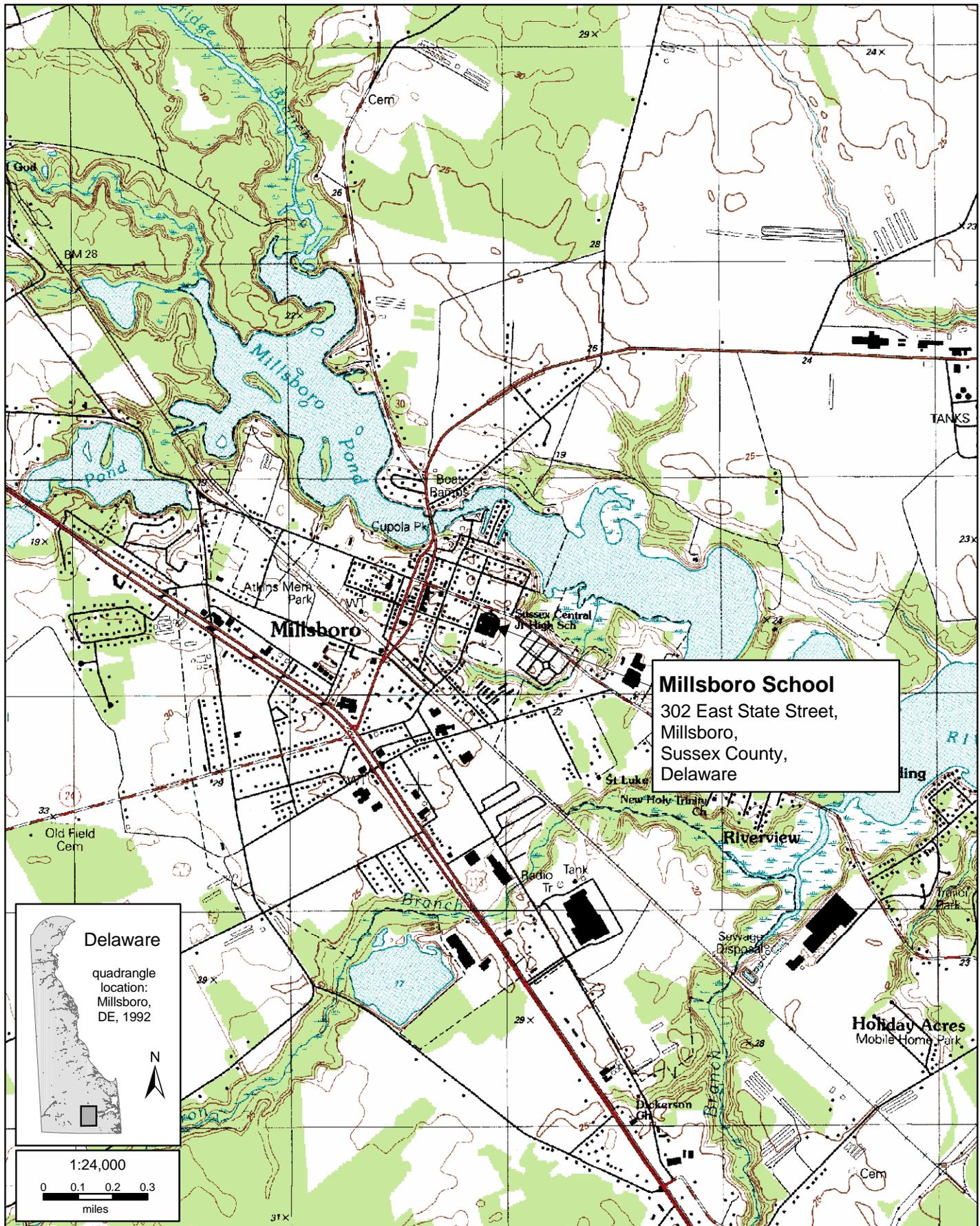
5	<u>18N</u>	<u>475,006</u>	<u>4,271,094</u>	8	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,908</u>	<u>4,271,104</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
6	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,952</u>	<u>4,271,083</u>	9	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,915</u>	<u>4,271,132</u>
7	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,929</u>	<u>4,271,088</u>	10	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,801</u>	<u>4,271,176</u>

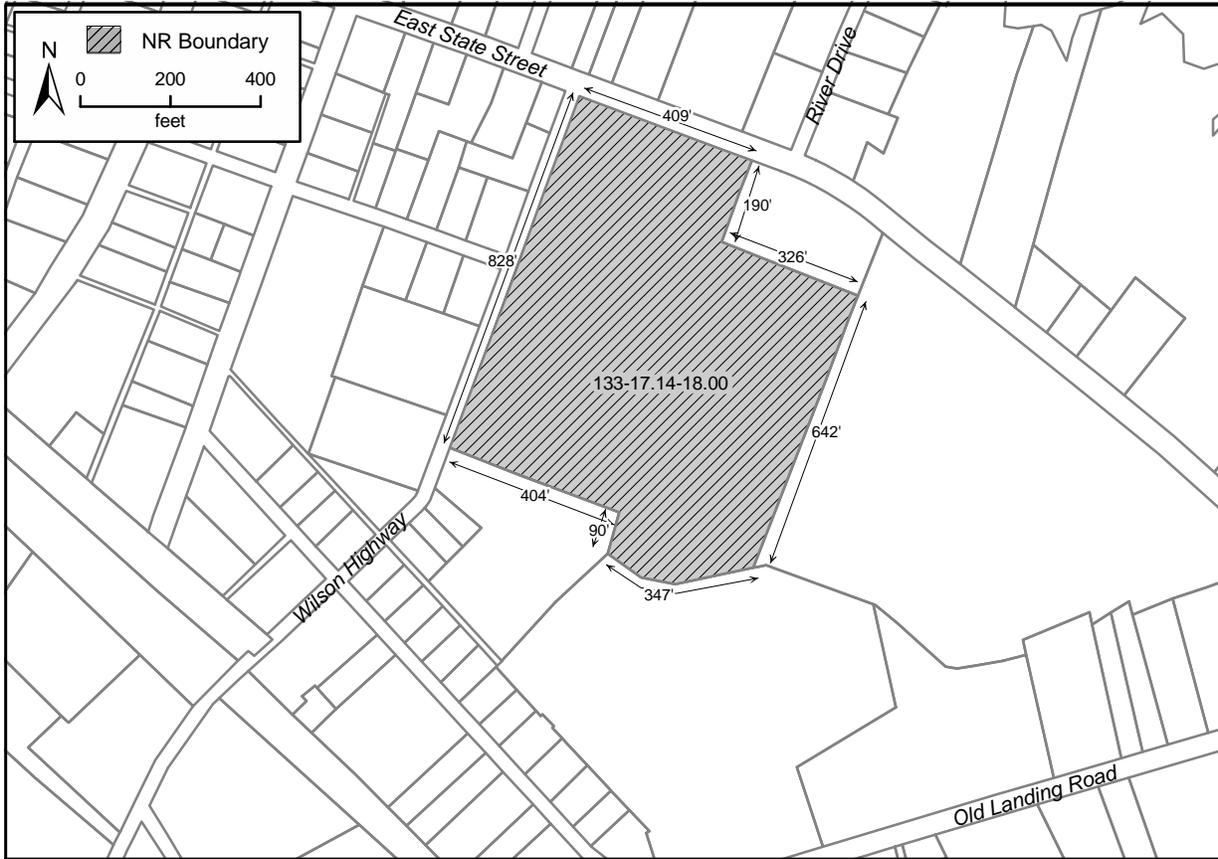
Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed National Register boundary consists of the entirety of modern tax parcel 133-17.14-18.00, which encompasses the school and its grounds within 13.08 acres. The boundary is irregularly shaped, but has approximately 409 feet of frontage on East State Street, which forms its northern boundary, and 829 feet of frontage on Wilson Highway, which forms its eastern boundary. In addition to the building itself, the recommended boundary includes landscape elements and athletic fields.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary encompasses the historic parcel with which the school is associated. The main building, the front lawn and pathways, and the athletic fields contribute to the significance of the property as an example of an early twentieth-century educational facility.





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Additional Documentation Page 3

Millsboro School Sussex County, Delaware

Photographs

Photograph 1 of 12. View of school façade, 1928 section, camera faces south-southwest. (10/2009)

Photograph 2 of 12. View of school façade, camera faces south-southwest. (10/2009)

Photograph 3 of 12. View of school façade and west side, camera faces southeast. (10/2009)

Photograph 4 of 12. View of west side of school, rear section, camera faces southeast. (10/2009)

Photograph 5 of 12. View of west side of school, front section, camera faces east. (10/2009)

Photograph 6 of 12. View of west side of cafeteria, camera faces east. (10/2009)

Photograph 7 of 12. View of east side of school, front section, camera faces west. (10/2009)

Photograph 8 of 12. View of rear of school, camera faces north. (10/2009)

Photograph 9 of 12. View of school grounds, with track visible beyond parking lot at rear of building, camera faces south-southeast. (10/2009)

Photograph 10 of 12. View of school interior, stage. (10/2009)

Photograph 11 of 12. View of bank school interior, 1928 stairs to the right of the entrance. (10/2009)

Photograph 12 of 12. View of school interior, original plaque in hall to the left of the entrance. (10/2009)

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Millsboro School
Sussex County, Delaware

Photograph 1 of 12:



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Millsboro School
Sussex County, Delaware

Photograph 2 of 12:



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Photograph 4 of 12:



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Photograph 5 of 12:



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Photograph 6 of 12:



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Photograph 12 of 12:

