

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Price School

and/or common Churchill School

2. Location

street & number Price School Lane not for publication

city, town Ladue vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis code 189

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Churchill School

street & number Price School Lane

city, town Ladue vicinity of state Missouri 63124

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 41 S. Central Avenue

city, town Clayton state Missouri 63105

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Price School is a brick and stucco structure, one story on a high basement, with a hipped roof rising to a copper ridge. The exceptionally decorative exterior has a windowless east facade except for three fanlighted doorways under a large inscription in raised letters, "Churchill School." This inscription covers the original incised stone inscription, "Price School." Flanking bays break forward; arcading and a dentilled frieze carried out in brickwork surmount stuccoed wall surfaces which frame two glazed terra cotta panels. These panels combine Aztec and Jacobean styles in allegorical scenes of the early exploration of America. The north and south walls of the building are largely given over to windows, which were originally 9 over 9. Recently large sheets of thermopane have been installed which have plastic muntins filled between the two panes to suggest the original pattern. The northwest classrooms project beyond the main block of the building and may be entered by a separate door from the east side of the building. A large semicircular bay window projects from the east part of the south side of the building. The south door is now enclosed within a stepped-down corridor that was originally a breezeway. This connects the main building with a low 8-bay, one story modern wing paralleling the main building to the south. This wing is not part of the present nomination. To the rear, the school is only a few yards from the grounds of an adjacent golf course.

Inside, the front entry is set midway between floors. Its walls are veneered in stucco finished to resemble rusticated travertine. Capital-like consoles ornament the piers between the doors. A single ascending flight of stairs separates two descending flights. Stairs and wainscoting in the entry as well as the floors of the corridors throughout the building are terrazzo, with dark borders curving upward to form base moldings. Corridors run across the rear; a skylight marks the rear corridor intersection. Glazed vestibules separate the north and south entrances from the ends of the rear corridor. Doors, door frames, frames of windows between rooms and corridors, and blackboard and bulletinboard frames are natural-finish oak. Ranks of rectangular oak storage compartments with paneled doors, designed for cloakrooms, are now installed in the classrooms themselves, and also in some offices. Windows between classrooms and hall are one-way glass. Most ceilings were lowered, presumably in the 1960's, when acoustical tile was installed; the extra space has facilitated the installation of air conditioning. One of the original pressed metal ceilings has been refurbished in the present boardroom in the west wing.

The renovation of the building that was completed in 1984 subdivided most of the classrooms but retained all significant detailing. On the lower level, the southeast room, the library, has its original shelving. The gymnasium, occupying the entire west end is several steps lower than the rest of the lower level. The balcony, now including an office and the main space are tiled in craftsman tan. Storage at the south end is screened by oak doors. A stage at the north end has two locker rooms behind it which include gray marble showers. In the southeast room upstairs a non-working painted wooden chimneypiece has been equipped for gas.

The school is located on the west side of the Price School Lane, a dead-end street running south from Clayton Road past the east side of the Boggy Club. The club grounds bound the school property north, west and south. The south part of the property is a playground; the rest of the school property has numerous old trees.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1925, 1933 **Builder/Architect** Study & Farrar

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Price School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a work of high artistic value by Study and Farrar, an architectural firm of distinction, though little known outside Missouri. Secondly the school is eligible under Criterion A as representing the broad theme of public education; it is unusual as an example of high-style architecture built for a rural single-school district.

A state law enacted in 1853 permitted the subdivision of congressional townships into school districts, each to be governed by a three-man board of directors.¹ The first Price School, erected in 1872, served Township 45 North Range 6 East. Later it was designated school number 34 out of the 82 districts that had been formed in St. Louis County by 1877. Like most it was originally a one-room building. In 1898, a two-room structure replaced the first one.² In 1924 the present building was authorized by Joseph G. Neier, president; John C. Dietrich, clerk; and Otto Deuser, director.³ The design of the new school was an appropriate expression of the character of the surroundings, at once prestigious and bucolic. The Price School District had changed from an area of farms to one of country clubs catering to the richest and most powerful members of St. Louis society: the Log Cabin Club, founded in 1899; the Bogy Club, located immediately adjacent to the school in 1912 and limited to sixty members; and the large St. Louis County Club, which moved nearby in 1916.⁴ The new constituents of the Price School District expected buildings of sophistication and refinement but at the same time did not want a repetition of the urban architecture they had left behind.

St. Louis schools were nationally recognized at that time for their high quality. Especially acclaimed were the school buildings, many of which had been designed by William B. Ittner (1864-1936), Commissioner of School Buildings and later architect to the St. Louis School Board from 1897 to 1917.⁵ Ittner's city's schools were typically two- or three-story dark red brick structures in the Jacobean style that he helped to popularize, partly because it afforded a design precedent for the large expanses of glass he favored.⁶ The Price School, in conscious contrast to Ittner's designs, has a nearly windowless front elevation of white stucco. Its few classical details, such as the consoles inside the lobby between the doors, are more than balanced by the many details that would have been seen as contemporary at the time, particularly the terra cotta friezes outside and the wealth of oak woodwork inside. The combination of materials, the scale and proportion of the building are all strongly reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts movement in England.⁷

In this country Arts and Crafts ideas were adopted on one hand by Gustav Stickley and his followers, who sought truth in plain lines and honest materials, and on the other by more pragmatic architects who adapted cottage plans and English building modes to larger structures for more affluent clients.⁸ The Price School combines Stickley-influenced interiors, craftsmanly brickwork, and terracotta ornament with the symmetrical elevation and formal entry to create a design appropriate to the surroundings.

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Continuation sheet Price School item number 8 Page 1

Guy Study and Benedict Farrar stood out among the highly competent traditional architect working in St. Louis because of their interest in the Arts and Crafts movement. Guy Study (1880-1959) graduated from Washington University in 1908 and spent three years in Europe before returning to St. Louis to form a partnership with John Roth.⁹ Most Roth and Study houses reveal Study's close study of English vernacular architecture, and several, including 6359 Waterman in University City and 8 Brentmoor Park in Clayton, combine brick and stucco much as the Price School. After John Roth moved to California in 1915, Study joined Benedict Farrar. The firm, later known as Study, Farrar and Majers, produced primarily residential work but also churches, Firmin Desloge Hospital in St. Louis, and Mary Institute in Ladue, the girls' preparatory school. Study also wrote for architectural journals, including an article while the Price School was under construction on Ittner.¹⁰

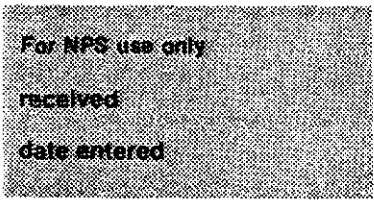
When Price School opened, its four classrooms had little more than 60 children.¹¹ In 1933 it was enlarged by adding the transverse corridor across the west end of the building, with the gymnasium below. Three years later Ladue was incorporated as a municipality, and at the same time, the Price School District, was converted into the School District of the City of Ladue, with a six-man board. By then this school had more than 250 students. With subsequent expansion of the district and construction of newer buildings and the decline in enrollment following the end of the Baby Boom, the school district found the Price School redundant. Erna Copeland, the school's principal during its years of construction and enlargement, had said that school buildings should not be planned to last more than about 25 years. Her own, however, having already served more than twice that long, seemed still to have much potential. After a period of vacancy, it was sold early in 1983 to the Churchill School, which had been founded in 1977 to help children with learning disabilities. The Churchill School emphasizes individualized attention, including daily tutorial sessions and most classes limited in size to six. The school began its full-year program in 1980 in rented quarters. The present building was opened in August, 1984, as the Churchill School's first permanent home.

NOTES

1. Edmund Louis Detering, "Development of School Districts in St. Louis County" (PhD dissertation, Washington University, 1955), p. 22.
2. Erna Copeland, "History of Price School" (paper delivered at the fall meeting of the Price School Association, 1937).
3. Plaque formerly located in the lobby of the school.
4. Henry J. Scherck, "Clubs and Fairways: Golf Grows Up in St. Louis," Gateway Heritage, Vol. 2, No. 3 (Winter 1981-1982), pp. 23, 26, 30.
5. Margaret Mosinger Freedman, "William B. Ittner, The Man and his Work" (Washington University, 1972) lists many biographical sources.
6. Marcus Whitfen, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Mass. : The MIT Press, 1969), p. 182.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Price School Item number 8 Page 2

7. Peter Davey, Architecture of the Arts and Crafts Movement (New York: Rizzoli, 1980), chapter 14.
8. Gustav Stickley, Craftman Homes (New York: Dover, 1909, 1979).
9. Biographical and professional information on study can be found in Near By, Vol. 1, No. 11 (April-May 1959), p. 2; Partial List of Work Designed and Erected During the Last Ten Years by Guy Study, Benedict Farrar and Marcel Boulicault under the firm name of Study and Ferrar Architects (Columbus, Ohio: Denny A. Clark, 1923); Urban Oasis (St. Louis: Boar's Head Press, 1979), pp 36-37; John Albury Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), pp 123, 160-168.
10. Guy Study, "The Work of William B. Ittner FAIA," The Architectural Record, Vol. 57 (Feb. 1925), pp 97-123.
11. Copeland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Copeland, Erna. "History of Price School" (paper delivered at the fall meeting of the Price School Association, 1937).
2. Near By, Vol, 1, No. 11 (April-May 1959), p. 2.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9 acre

Quadrangle name "Clayton, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	2	8	7	3	0	4	2	7	9	7	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Section 17, Township 45 North Range 6 East, fronting 215 ft. on the west side of Price School lane by 190 ft. deep.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis code 189

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title I. Esley Hamilton

organization St. Louis County Dept. of Parks & Recreation date October 1984

street & number 41 South Central Avenue telephone (314) 889-3357

city or town Clayton state Missouri 63105

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

John Karel, Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation

date 12/20/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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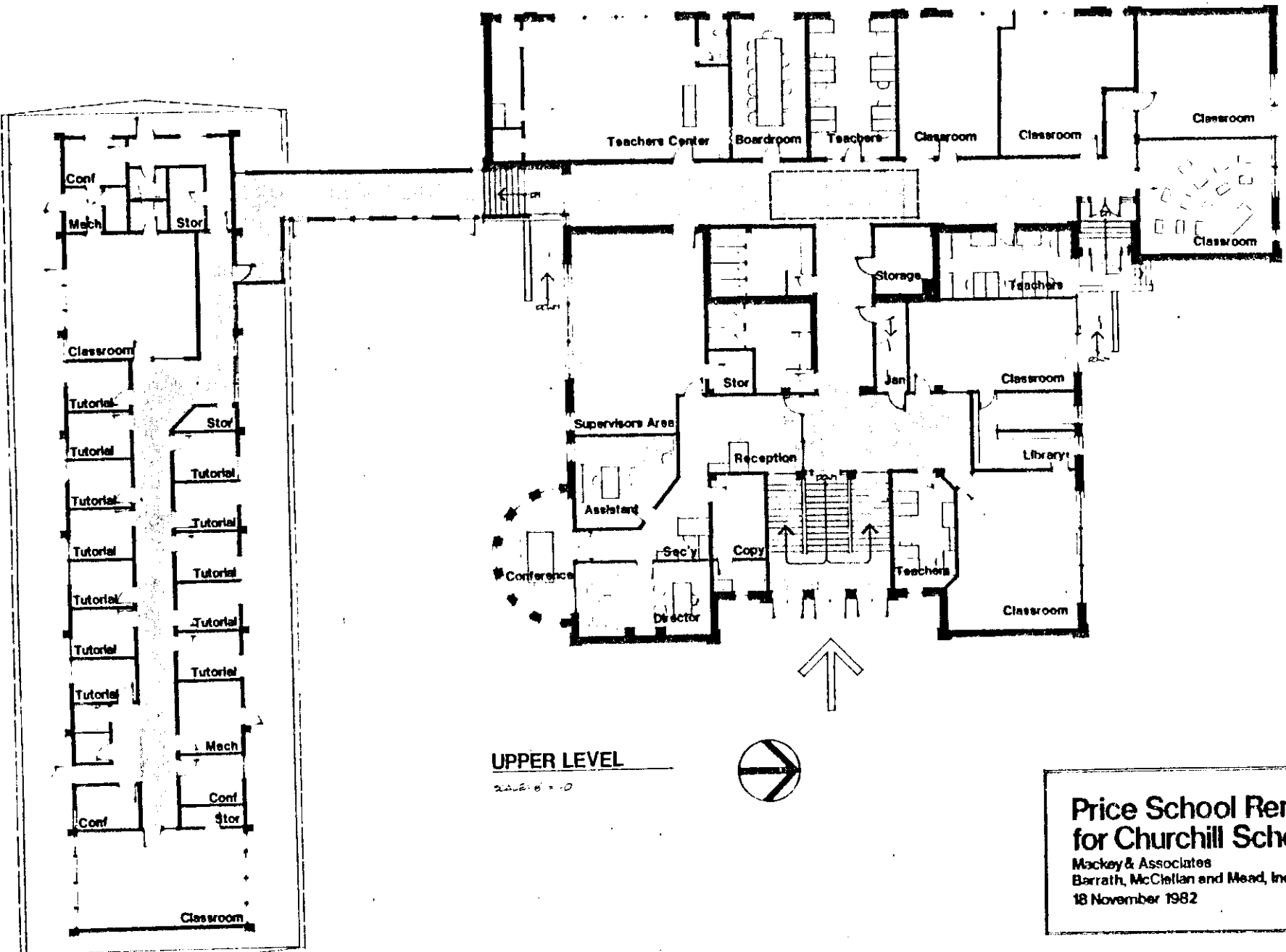
Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Chief Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person

Department of Natural Resources
1915 Southridge Drive
Jefferson City

November 15, 1984
(314) 751-4096
Missouri

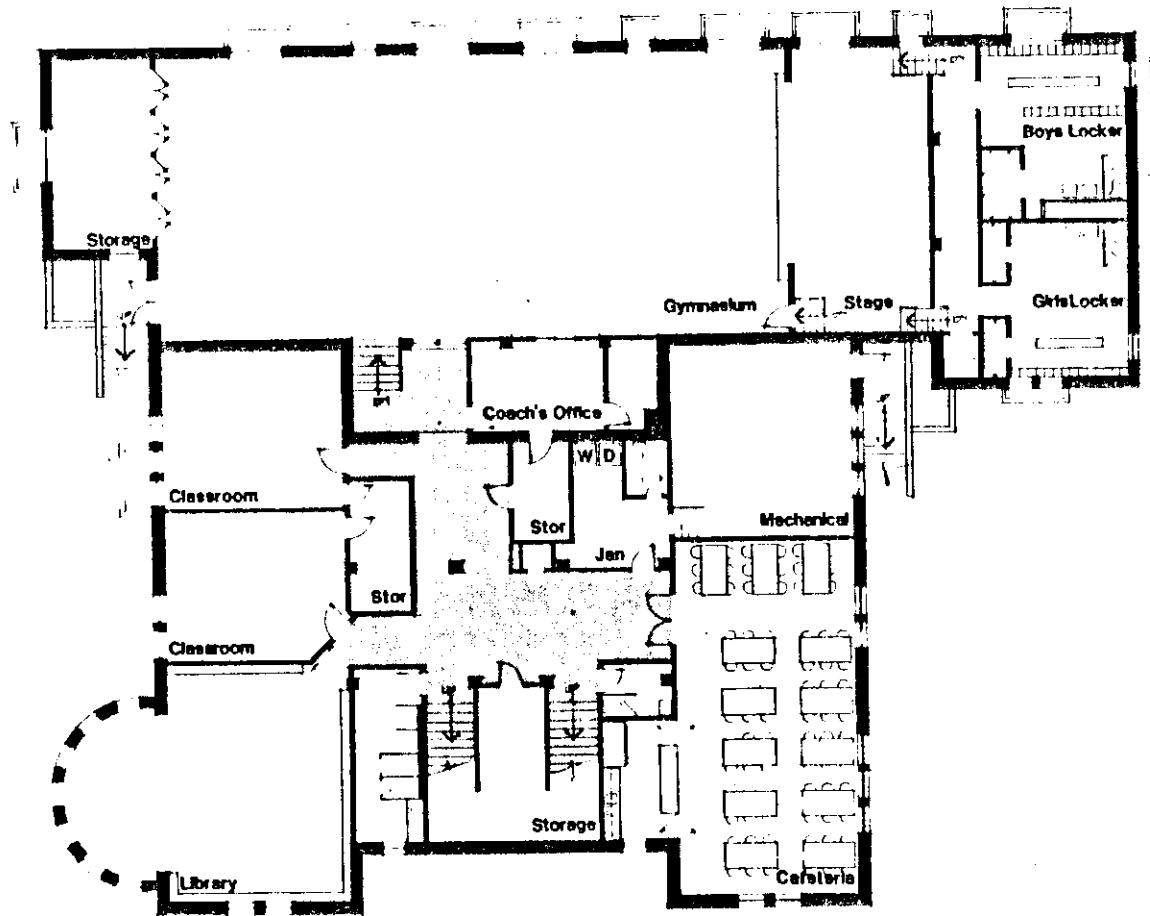


UPPER LEVEL

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



**Price School Renovation
for Churchill School**
 Mackey & Associates Architects/P
 Barrath, McClellan and Mead, Inc. Construction M
 18 November 1982



LOWER LEVEL

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



Price School Renovation for Churchill School

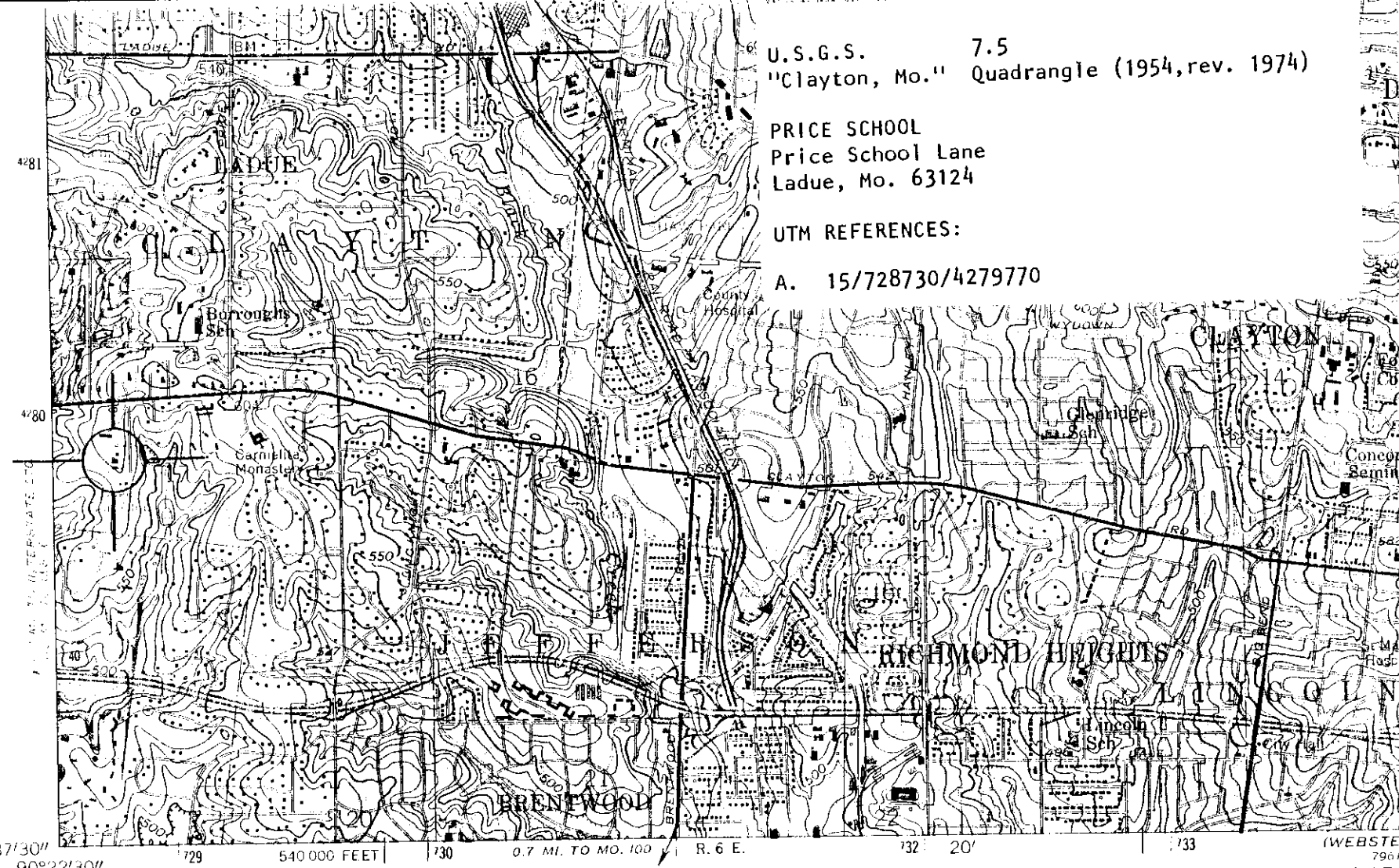
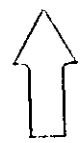
Mockey & Associates
Barrath, McClellan and Mead, Inc.
18 November 1982

Architects/Planners
Construction Managers

U.S.G.S. 7.5
"Clayton, Mo." Quadrangle (1954, rev. 1974)

PRICE SCHOOL
Price School Lane
Ladue, Mo. 63124

UTM REFERENCES:
A. 15/728730/4279770



38° 37' 30" 90° 22' 30" 729 540 000 FEET 730 0.7 MI. TO MO. 100 R. 6 E. 732 20' 733 (WEBSTER 7961) SCALE

(KIRKWOOD)
7961 III SW

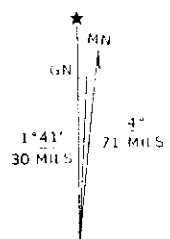
Mapped by the Geological Survey
Revised by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from planetable surveys by the Geological Survey 1933
Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs taken 1952
Field check 1953-1954

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15,
shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL
NATIONAL GEODETIC VE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER
AND BY THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Price School** _____

City or Vicinity: **Ladue** _____

County: **St. Louis County** _____ State: **MO** _____

Photographer: **Esley Hamilton (unless otherwise stated)** _____

Date

Photographed: **Oct. 1984** _____

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 13. Front elevation from NE.
- 2 of 13. Front elevation from NE.
- 3 of 13. Center of front elevation from E.
- 4 of 13. Center of front elevation from E.
- 5 of 13. N side from E.
- 6 of 13. N side from E.
- 7 of 13. SE corner from SE.
- 8 of 13. SE corner from SE.
- 9 of 13. W side from SW.
- 10 of 13. Main lobby looking SE from top of steps.
- 11 of 13. S exit from W corridor.
- 12 of 13. Chimney piece in SE office.
- 13 of 13. Oak lockers formerly in classroom now in S central office.



CHURCHILL SCHOOL



PRICE SCHOOL

CHURCHILL SCHOOL

FOUNDED
1872





PRICE SCHOOL



1872









CHURCH









EXIT

TAGAN-BUSE

FLOOR PLAN



