

22 Mary St, Charleston, SC

The Shaw Memorial School



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MS HP Clemson University/ College of Charleston

HP 611 Research Methods

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank everyone at the Boys and Girls Club, Robert Gould Shaw Unit for being so accommodating. I would also like to thank my professor, Katherine Saunders for guiding me through the process of the research and chain of title work. I also must acknowledge everyone at the Charleston Public Library, the South Carolina Historical Society and the RMC office for their assistance in the research for this paper.

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Why conduct historical research on 22 Mary St, Shaw Memorial School?

The Shaw Memorial School (as it was originally named) was formed in the 1860's by a Board of Trustees to honor the fallen Colonel, Robert Gould Shaw of the Massachusetts 54th regiment. There is not much of a written history on this property and what is there, shows conflicting dates of formation as well as a scant details. This investigation has been completed to pull together a cohesive story about the Shaw Memorial School including its formation, roots in the Civil War, the building, as well as influential people associated with it. This property has a very unique history, unlike any in the Charleston area, with its ties to the North and the Civil War, it is difficult to ignore such a property and its story.

Before the school is discussed, there will be an investigation into the Massachusetts 54th Regiment and their story will be told. Following this, will be a brief overview of the Mazyck-Wraggborough district of Charleston, the area in which the school sits. This extensive background is included to accurately set the stage for the forming of the school and to offer a deeper understanding of the context that school emerged from. It is hopeful that by the end of this investigation it will be clear how the Shaw Memorial School came to be and why it's an important piece of history in Charleston. The property is still in use today, and serves the community as the Boys and Girls Club of Charleston, touching the lives of many children in the community as it did over 100 years ago as the Shaw Memorial School.

The Massachusetts 54th Regiment

To fully understand how the Shaw Memorial School came to be, there needs to be an investigation into the Massachusetts 54th Regiment and Robert Gould Shaw, the Colonel in charge. The Shaw School was formed to honor Col. Shaw and his leadership of the Mass. 54th leading up to the infamous battle at Fort Wagner off the coast of Charleston, SC. The story of the 54th regiment is a unique one as it was the first official regiment of colored northerners of the

United States, setting the stage for blacks to serve in the armed forces in the decades to follow. The 54th, as it is often referred to as, was a product of the Emancipation Proclamation when President Lincoln announced that



Depiction of the siege at Ft Wagner

Colored men would now be accepted to serve the country in the armed forces, the 54th was one of the first colored regiments formed. Soon after its conception, a 26-year-old Harvard student by the name of Robert Gould Shaw was asked to lead the group of men. Shaw was a man of high social status, coming from a well connected family and attended Harvard. Prior to accepting the offer to lead the 54th, he had other leadership opportunities on his plate including his current position leading the Second Massachusetts Calvary. Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew, a friend of the Shaw family, arranged the 54th regiment and was the one to send the letter to Shaw himself, it read:

Captain,

I am about to organize, in Massachusetts, a Colored Regiment as part of the volunteer quota of this state-the commissioned officers to be white men. I have today written your Father, expressing to him my sense of the importance of this undertaking, and requesting him to forward to you this letter, in which I offer you the Commission of Colonel over it. The Lieutenant Colonelcy I have offered to Captain Hallowell of the Twentieth Massachusetts Regiment. It is important to the organization of this regiment that I should receive your reply to this offer at the earliest day consistent with your ability to arrive at a deliberate conclusion on the subject

Respectfully and very truly yours,
John A. Andrew¹

In sending the letter to Shaw's parents, Andrew knew it was going to be harder for him to refuse the position, but Shaw initially did so anyway. The Shaw family was known to be a supporter of the Abolitionist movement and

Andrew hoped that this, along with contacting his parents, would sway Shaw to accept the offer to lead the 54th. Andrew made it clear that to lead the unit he wanted "a gentleman of "the highest tone and honor", from the "circles of educated, antislavery society."² Andrews request to have Shaw lead the 54th shows the high stature of the Shaw family, as well as the reputation that Shaw was beginning to build himself. Although it seems that others, like



Col. Robert Gould Shaw

Andrew, saw Shaw as a strong fit for the position, Shaw did not agree, stating to his

¹ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 23

² Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 22

father "I would take it, if I thought myself equal to the responsibility of such a position."³ Upon pondering his decision for a few days, Shaw changed his mind and told his father to destroy the letter because he was going to lead the 54th. Soon after accepting the position, Shaw went to Boston to begin the process of assembling his Regiment. Newspaper ads were circulated throughout the North East asking for colored men to serve in the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, "TO COLORED MEN! Wanted-good men for the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, of African Descent... Rally around the Flag of Freedom and evince that you are not inferior in courage and Patriotism to White Men."⁴ In all, 600 men enlisted in the 54th from many different states, all of which convened in Boston to undergo their training. On May 28th, 1863 the 54th was properly sent out of Boston with a parade to honor their bravery and wish them well as they made their way South. The next morning they left for South Carolina by ship, unsure of what they would be facing in the months to come. They arrived in Hilton Head, SC on June 3rd of that year. By agreeing to lead the 54th, Shaw, a prominent white from the North, was treading on ground that not many, if any at all, had ever treaded on. There were many uncertainties about leading blacks into battle, it could go the route of some of the white regiments that retreat at the battle lines, "Shaw feared that if his men turned to escape, Northern whites would seize on the example to "prove" black inferiority and persuade the government to withdraw its commitment to black regiments."⁵ Late on July 17th, 1863, Shaw was informed that his men would be leading the siege at Ft Wagner on Morris Island. He could have declined the leading of the attack, "But Shaw knew that the key to Charleston lay at the end of the beach. If black men could storm the fort and open up the

³ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 23

⁴ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 27

⁵ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 48

door to the birthplace of the rebellion, the symbolism would be enormous.”⁶ At seven O’clock on July 18th, Shaw addressed his men “in a most friendly way”, challenging the men to “take the fort or die there”⁷ Shaw gave his orders from in front of his men, ordering them forward, and soon after ordered “double quick” as the traversed the beach. “ With a small group of men, Shaw somehow made it to the top of the parapet before an enemy bullet killed him” Those around him remembered he “had waived his sword and urged his men forward”⁸ With the leadership and inspiration of Shaw, almost half of the 54th regiment made it into the fort before being forced to retreat. Of the 600 men that charged the fort, 272 were killed, wounded or captured.⁹ Although there were many men killed on Morris Island that day, including Col. Shaw, the bravery of his regiment showed that “blacks had proven themselves as fighting men and vindicated their sponsors, the abolitionists”¹⁰ thus opening the door for the confident formation of other black regiments in the future. Col. Shaw was seen as a hero to the men of the 54th and led his men to be great, able bodied fighters and he did so with honor and respect to them. This showed through the words of one of his men “He was one of the very best men in the world.”¹¹ The soldiers of the 54th were not only fighting to gain ground in the Civil War, but were also trying to gain respect for blacks throughout the country. It is evident that Shaw connects with the men on this level and sees this as an opportunity to prove that

⁶ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 51

⁸ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 52

⁹ There are many accounts of the events at Ft. Wagner that infamous day, one if which is from Confederate Lieutenant, Robert C. Gilchrist who defended the fort on the day of the 54th seige. Later that day there was a second attack on Ft. Wagner that led to the capture of the Island. He later describes the fighting on Morris Island “Blood, mud, water, brains and human hair matted together; men lying in every possible attitude, with every conceivable expression on their countenances; their limbs bent into unnatural shapes by the fall of twenty or more feet...” (Duncan, 1992) Gilchrist goes on to continue describing the horror he witnessed that infamous day.

¹⁰ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P.53

¹¹ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P.54

blacks deserve a place in the world equal to the whites, even if that opportunity means dying in battle.

Mazyck-Wraggborough, the setting for the Shaw School

The Shaw Memorial School was erected in a relatively new part of Charleston known as Mazyck-Wraggborough. Lying above Boundary St (today's Calhoun St), this area had not yet been settled by the growing "sprawl" of Charleston, but was seen as a promising area for development and growth of the city. (see 1858 plat). The Mazyck-Wraggborough district grew out of two distinct districts lying adjacent to one another and were combined to be known as one area of the city. According to the National Register of Historic Places nomination form, "They form a cohesive area extending north from Calhoun St, east from Meeting St and west from East Bay St. They were named after two families, the Wragg family and the Mazyck family, both large land owners in the area prior to its settlement and integration into the city of Charleston." The Wragg family held a great deal of land in this area of Charleston and later donated some of it to the Second Presbyterian Church. Both of these families were very wealthy and wanted to live suburban lives, and therefore lived above Boundary St. where the land was not settled yet. As the city of Charleston grew, both families saw an opportunity to sell off their land and help the city expand its footprint. "Wragg planned the development of his estate as the suburb of Wraggborough, naming the streets after various members of the family including, John, Henrietta, Ann, Elizabeth, Mary and Judith."¹² This new area of the city was quickly settled through the 1800s and was soon home to many other families including the Aikens and the Manigaults who became influential families in Charleston. (Refer to 1878 Map of Charleston for reference of Shaw Memorial School)

¹² Poston, Jonathan. *The Buildings of Charleston*. Columbia, SC, University of South Carolina Press, 1997.

The formation of the Shaw Monument Fund

Colonel Shaw's leadership of the Massachusetts 54th, specifically at Ft Wagner gave him a place in history, as many people admired his bravery and commitment to not only the men of his regiment, but also the betterment of the lives of Blacks in America. The Shaw Memorial School was the first tribute ever created to Shaw, founded through the bravery of the battle at Morris Island as well as his commitment to better the lives of blacks by helping them earn their place within society. Many people mourned the death of Shaw, but knew that he had died in the noblest way, beside his men. His death was not seen as the end of an era for Shaw, following his death it was decided that money should be collected to erect a monument of sorts to remember him by. A Board of Trustees was established consisting of many individuals that Shaw associated with during his time with the 54th and prior. Little is known about the establishment of the Trustees, or the records they kept but they were as follows; Rufus Saxton, T.W. Higginson, E.N. Hallowell, George William Curtis, and E. M. Hooper. (see Figure 1) It is important to mention that although it is unknown what process brought the Trustees together, it is known that they had all formed relationships with one another as well as with Shaw over the years leading up to Shaw's death. There are many references to these men in Shaw's letters; "Ned Hooper extracted me by taking me to tea at his house, and I have not ventured into town, on foot, since."¹³ In this same letter Shaw also references Higginson, "Col. Higginson came over to see us, day before yesterday. I have never seen someone put his whole soul into his work as he does."¹⁴ Shaw had closer relationships with some

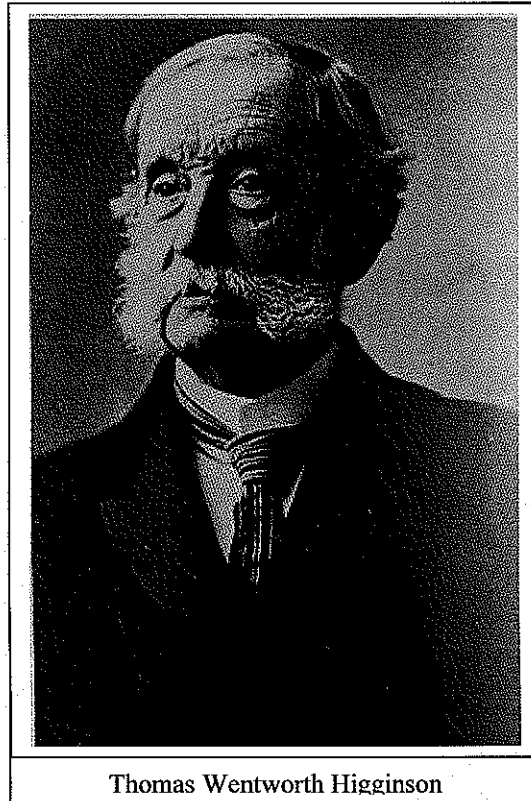
¹³ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 339

¹⁴ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 339

of these men, than others; "Shaw confided to Hallowell his fear of dying and said that if a fight came, "I trust God will give me

strength to do my duty."...Shaw hid this fear from the other officers and men"¹⁵

General Rufus Saxton was the glue that brought the Trustees together and was the major driving force that made the Shaw Memorial School happen. In an excerpt from Thomas Higginsons book, *Army Life in a Black Regiment*¹⁶, he notes the men of the First South Carolina Volunteers (whom Higginson led) "knew about the circumstances of his death (being Robert



Gould Shaw), and many of them had subscribed towards a monument for him, -a project which originated with Rufus Saxton, and which was finally embodied in the "Shaw School-house" at Charleston"¹⁷ It is unclear whether or not money was collected from the First South Carolina Volunteers, or if they were just proponents of a memorial being erected in Shaws honor. In addition to this, it is also unclear what the Massachusetts 54ths role was in the formation of the Shaw Memorial School, but given the close relationships between the Trustees and the military roles they held, it can be surmised

¹⁵ Duncan, Russell. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992. P. 51

¹⁶ *Army Life in a Black Regiment* written by Thomas Wentworth Higginson is an account of the lives of those men in the First South Carolina Volunteers whom Higginson was the Colonel of. Higginson was well connected with General Rufus Saxton as well as Robert Gould Shaw, all of which were proponents of the abolition of slavery. *Army Life in a Black Regiment* draws links between many of these men, who later become the Trustees of the Shaw Monument Fund.

¹⁷Higginson, Thomas W. *Army Life In A Black Regiment*. Boston: Fields, Osgood &Co,1870. P. 226

that this was not the working of just the Board of Trustees or any one specific regiment or group of soldiers, but rather a coming together of many individuals and groups who all wanted to memorialize Shaw.

The Shaw Memorial School

After the establishment of the Shaw Monument Fund Trustees, it was decided that a school would be erected in Charleston to commemorate Shaw. It is known that the Trustees first purchased a lot on Rutledge Av. In Charleston, on March 16th, 1868 the lot was sold in order to obtain a piece of property on Mary St. where the Shaw School was ultimately established.¹⁸ The lot on Mary Street was purchased from a Robert C. Gilchrist of Charleston in the amount of \$2,500 on March 25th, 1868.¹⁹ The records kept on the Shaw Memorial School in the days of its conception and years following are sparse, while records are available after the school is leased to the City of Charleston in 1874. The Shaw Memorial School was funded in part by the New England Freedmen's Aid Society, as well as the Freedmen's bureau and a "Two story building was erected"²⁰ In the terms of the lease it designates that the school should be "A good free school open to all children without distinction of race or previous conditions of servitude, and that such school, so to be maintained shall be called " The Shaw Memorial School"" (see Figure 2)²¹ The school functioned under this funding until 1874 when it was turned over to the Charleston Board of School Commissioners who accepted a lease of the building and its fixtures for a period of ten years. It is at this time that the Charleston Board of School Commissioners discusses during one of their meetings, the changes that will be made to

¹⁸ Drago, Edmund L. *Charleston's Avery Center*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006. P. 76

¹⁹ Robert C. Gilchrist of Charleston is believed to be the same Robert C. Gilchrist that defended Morris Island at the battle of Ft. Wagner where Col. Shaw died. There is no direct link found between Col. Shaw and Gilchrist, but it is evident that Gilchrist saw the aftermath of the battle at Ft. Wagner from his description of the attack noted in earlier note.

²⁰ Drago, Edmund L. *Charleston's Avery Center*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006. P. 76

²¹ USA, Charleston, SC. Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Book P-16
Page 205-206.

the building and what the salaries of the teachers and staff will be. (see Figure 3) It is decided that there will be "a Principal, Vice Principal, (who shall also be the teacher of the first class, four first class teachers, and five second classes to be subject to subsequent modifications by the Board according to the relative numbers of the pupils." (see figure 4)²² During this meeting some physical changes were also proposed to the building, "The committee also recommend that a partition be executed across the middle of each of the two large rooms in the body of the building, these rooms being entirely too large for the accommodation of single classes. They also recommend the removal of two staircases at the rear of the building, which encumber two rooms that are otherwise excellently adapted as recitation rooms _ these changes will involve comparatively little expense."²³ The Shaw Memorial School became one of the top schools in the City of Charleston as well as one of the most well attended, with its enrolment in 1878 at 742 students.²⁴ The Trustees of the Shaw Monument Fund were very pleased with the success of the school and supplied funds to upgrade it in 1878, these upgrades included the addition of two wings in the back of the building. In 1884, the ten-year lease with the city was up and the Trustees, still pleased with the running and success of the school, decided to sign a lease with the city for 99 years. (see figure 5) The minutes from a July 9th, 1883 School Board meeting state "Mr. Porter moved that the papers and letters of Mr Hooper, now in his possession, be turned over the Mr. Bryan with instructions to execute lease of Shaw School for a term of 99 Years, as proposed by Trustees of said school."²⁵ The

²² USA, Charleston, SC. Charleston County Public Library Archives, Records of the City Board of School Commissioners, 1812-1935. Box 5.

²³ USA, Charleston, SC. Charleston County Public Library Archives, Records of the City Board of School Commissioners, 1812-1935. Box 5.

²⁴ Drago, Edmund L. *Charleston's Avery Center*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006. P. 120

²⁵ USA, Charleston, SC. Charleston County Public Library Archives, Records of the City Board of School Commissioners, 1812-1935. Box 5.

establishment of the Shaw Memorial School embodied the ideals of Col. Shaw and his goals of bettering the lives of blacks, and in the case of the Shaw School, blacks and whites. Shaw Memorial School was one of the top institutions in the city next to the Avery Normal Institute, in 1902 the Shaw School in conjunction with the Morris St. school were educating over 3,773 students combined. By 1921 Charleston schools were so over crowded that the student teacher ratio at The Shaw School reached 60.6:1.²⁶ The school remained in session until 1938 when it became a settlement house for the city of Charleston.

²⁶ Drago, Edmund L. *Charleston's Avery Center*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006. P. 170

Its later years...

After its closing in 1938 the building became home to people who were displaced from their homes due to a tornado in the Charleston area. (see figures 6&7) In 1957, the Shaw Memorial School property became home to the Boys and Girls Club of Charleston, its current occupant. The Boys and Girls Club, Robert Gould Shaw Unit prides its self on being a “safe, structured and nurturing environment for kids after school.”²⁷ The 1971, the building was in very poor shape and was condemned by the city of Charleston and was soon taken over by the city, as the Shaw Monument Fund Trustees technically still owned it.²⁸ Following this, the building was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 with the nomination form stating “The City of Charleston hopes to convert this complex of buildings to a recreational center.” (see figure 8 and National Register form) The next year the building underwent a \$200,000 renovation, which included the removal of top two stories of the building, leaving just the masonry foundation for use by the Boys and Girls Club. The building currently has a second floor that is home to the computer lab, as well as a recoding studio for the kids of the Shaw Unit to use. Along with the second story, there have been some additions to the building including a library to the west façade, as well as a large, two story gymnasium on the north, or back façade. By looking at the construction of the additions, specifically similarities of their construction, it is believed that these additions were made in 1974 when the building received its renovation by the city of Charleston. (see appendix of current photos of the building)

²⁷ “Boys and Girls Club” *Youtube.com* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH5QZcVUsBQ>

²⁸ USA, Charleston, SC. Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Book S 96
page 116-17.

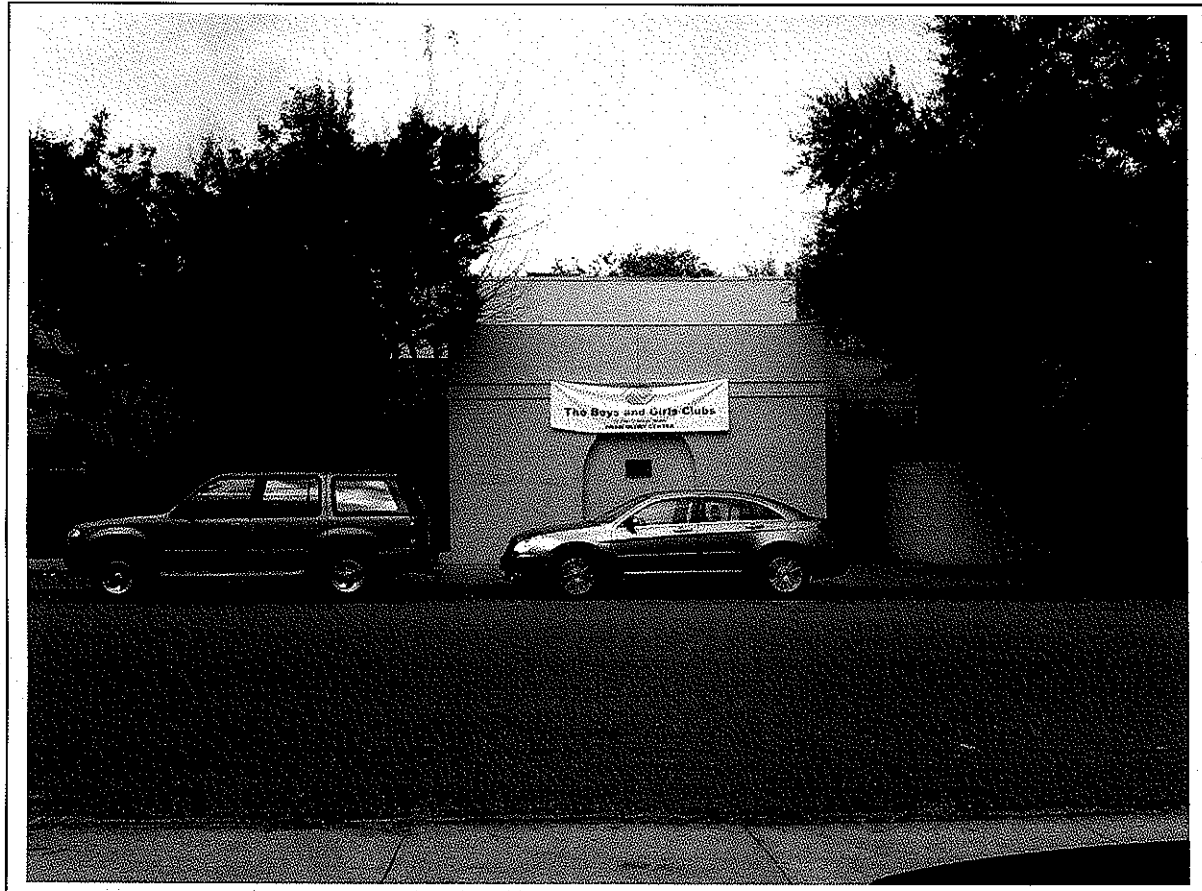
Current building description

The Shaw Memorial School was originally built between 1868 and 1874 as a three story flat roofed, clapboard structure, resting on a high brick foundation with tall arches set into the brickwork. In 1974 structure underwent extensive renovations, which included removing all floors above the basement level, leaving the brick foundation as the only remaining original structure.

The current building is a flat roofed, one and one half story, brick building with high arches set into the brickwork. All of the brickwork is covered by green stucco and extends approx. ten feet up from ground level. Above this there is a four-foot tall, stuccoed pediment that terminates at the roofline. The façade of the building is organized into three equal sections, with the middle portion closest to the street. The left section contains two identical, large brick archways containing one door in each. The middle section contains one large, centered archway that has been filled in with brick, slightly recessed from the face of the building to define the shape of the arch. The right section is a mirror image of the left, containing the same windows. Between the middle section and right section of the building, there is a recessed doorway that serves as the entrance to the Boys and girls club.

The buildings footprint is in the form of a capitol letter "T" with two wings (protruding East and West) at the far back end of the building, and the same wings mirrored at the front end. As described above, the front of the building contains a protruding middle section that is closer to the street than the rest of the façade, this protrusion is the same size as the wings, but is closer to the road then any other section of

the building. The “body” of the letter “T” contains a partial second story, which makes it set back from the road.



The Boys and Girls Club, Robert Gould Shaw Unit, 22 Mary Street Charleston, SC.
November, 2009
Principle Façade

Future Avenues of Research

Prior to conducting this research, the available information on the Shaw Memorial School was scattered among many different sources including deed books, minutes to school board meetings, as well as various books written about the city of Charleston and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment. This document is an attempt to pull some of these resources together and offer a broader view of the founding of the Shaw Memorial School, as well as a bit on its story as a building. Throughout the course of the research for this paper, many interesting avenues were intersected that if investigated, could lead to more promising research surrounding the Shaw Memorial School and its conception. Here are some possible avenues of future research:

The Shaw Monument Fund Trustees:

The names of the Trustees are given in this document, as well as a brief introduction to who they were and more importantly, how they were connected to Robert Gould Shaw. Given that this research was conducted in the City of Charleston and the many of the Trustees were from the North, it might be beneficial to look to resources in the Boston area to investigate the Trustees on a deeper level. This may or may not offer resources that do not exist in Charleston such as deeds to the building or documents surrounding the formation or workings of the Trustees.

Robert C. Gilchrist:

The piece of land purchased by the Trustees was previously owned by a Robert C. Gilchrist of Charleston, whom is believed to be the same Robert C. Gilchrist that defended Ft. Wagner the day of the siege by the Massachusetts 54th. It might be

interesting to investigate the relationship (if any) between the individual Trustees and Gilchrist, as well as Shaw and Gilchrist. Along these same lines, it might be beneficial to look into why the Trustees sold their first lot on Rutledge Av. to suddenly buy the lot on Mary St.

The Building of the Shaw School:

It is difficult to pinpoint a date that the Shaw Memorial School was erected due to a lack of documentation available. An investigation into the original plans for the school as well as getting an exact date of its completion would be beneficial.

The proponents of the Shaw Monument Fund:

It was originally believed that the funding for the school was collected by the men of the 54th, but current research suggests that it was General Rufus Saxton who headed up the Trustees and the men of the First South Carolina Volunteers who were major proponents of the building of a monument in his honor. The formation of the Monument Fund and who the proponents were would be an interesting path to take, possibly pinning down a story to the conception of the Fund and the collecting of the money to build the school.

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http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wynkoop/photos/ftwagner.jpg&imgrefurl=http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wynkoop/webdocs/johnrwcp.htm&usg=__iwVFtml-8Fhz5smlisR-SaoqZZM=&h=288&w=450&sz=156&hl=en&start=82&um=1&tbnid=4gRQUV87y50n8M:&tbnh=81&tbnw=127&prev=/images%3Fq%3DMass%2B54th%26ndsp%3D20%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dsafari%26rls%3Den%26sa%3DN%26start%3D80%26um%3D1

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http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.civilwarhome.com/images/shaw.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.civilwarhome.com/shawbio.htm&h=297&w=180&sz=14&tbnid=zWA3XWxcrzc4VM:&tbnh=116&tbnw=70&prev=/images%3Fq%3DRobert%2BGould%2Bshaw&usg=__H9ZKEEgf7krDcgbjj7yxV1TwacQ=&ei=pPwds9b3EluWtgfHhvmLCg&sa=X&oi=image_result&resnum=5&ct=image&ved=0CBwQ9QEwBA

“Thomas Wentworth Higginson” *Harvard Square Library*

http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/uu_addenda/images/Higginson-ThomasWentworth.jpg

"Boys and Girls Club" *Youtube.com*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH5QZcVUsBQ>

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USA, Charleston, SC. Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Book S 96
page 116-17.

USA, Charleston, SC. Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Book P-16
Page 205-206.

USA Charleston, SC. Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Book E-15,
Page 789.

USA, Charleston, SC. Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Book D-15
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A-146, Mary St.

USA, Charleston, SC. Charleston County Public Library Archives,
Records of the City Board of School Commissioners, 1812-1935. Box 5.

Interview:

Atiya McPhearson, interview with author.
November 10, 2009.

Figures and Appendix

(Presented in order listed)

- Chain of Title Record and Annotated Chain of Title
- Plat A-146 1858 shows the lots combined for the Shaw Monument School
- Sanborn Maps
 - -1888
 - -1902
- Cogswell Map 1878
- Figures 1-5 Deeds and School Board Meeting Minutes
- Figure 6- Newspaper article on Refugees in Shaw School
- Figure 7- Newspaper picture of Refugees at Shaw School
- Figure 8- Newspaper article; Shaw Center Is Put On Register
- National Register Nomination Form (1973)
- Part 1 Certification Form
- Current Photos of the Shaw Memorial School Building

Chain-of-Title Record

Property Address: 22 Mary St (now known as 20 Mary St.)
The Shaw Memorial School

Date	Book & page	Grantor	Grantee	Type	Lot Size	Price	Comments
5/10/1971	Book: S-96 Page: 116	Rufus Saxton et.al	The City Council of Charleston	Condemnation of property	112'x 163' 6"	\$11,000	Condemnation of property, taken over by City of Charleston
5/15/1874	Book: P-16 Page: 205	Shaw Monument Fund Trustees	School Comissioners, City of Charleston	Lease	112'x 163'6"	\$1.00	Lease of Ten years to the city of Charleston
5/25/1868	Book: E-15 Page: 789	Robert C. Gilchrist	Shaw Monument Fund Trustees	Conveyence	102'x 163"	\$2,500	Sale of property from Robert C. Gilchrist to Trustees
3/16/1868	Book: D-15 Page: 357	Master In Equity-Tupper	Robert C. Gilchrist			\$3,000	Deed completely illegible

Annotated Chain of Title:

May, 10/1971

Grantor: Rufus Saxton et al.

Grantee: City Council of Charleston

Book and Page: S-96 page 116

Type: Condemnation of Property

Lot: 112' x 163' 6"

The property was taken over by the city of Charleston from the Shaw Monument Fund Trustees by letter of condemnation by the City.

"As being the same property conveyed to E. M Hollowell, Rufus Saxton, George William Curtis, T.W Higginson, and E.W Hooper as Trustees of the Shaw Monument Fund by deed of Robert Gilchrist, dated March 25th 1868."¹

May, 15/1874

Grantor: Shaw Monument Fund

Grantee: School Commissioners, City of Charleston

Book and Page: P-16 page 205

Type: Lease

Lot: 112' x 163' 6"

School building is leased to the Charleston School Board for a period of Ten years to be used as a school.

"To hold for the term of Ten Years"²

May, 25/1868

Grantor: Robert C. Gilchrist

Grantee: Shaw Monument Fund

Book and Page: E-15 page 789

Type: Conveyance

Lot: 102' x 163'

Transfer of property from Robert C. Gilchrist to the Shaw Monument Trustees.

March, 16/1868

Grantor: Master In Equity Tupper

Grantee: Robert C. Gilchrist

Book and Page: D-15 page 357

Type:

Lot:

Deed is completely illegible.

¹ Charleston County Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Deed book S 96, page 116, Charleston, SC.

² Charleston County Register of Mesne and Conveyance, Deed book P 16 , page 206, Charleston, SC.

Reed Street

Street

South Court 40 ft.
(private for the sole use of the lot fronting e. it.)

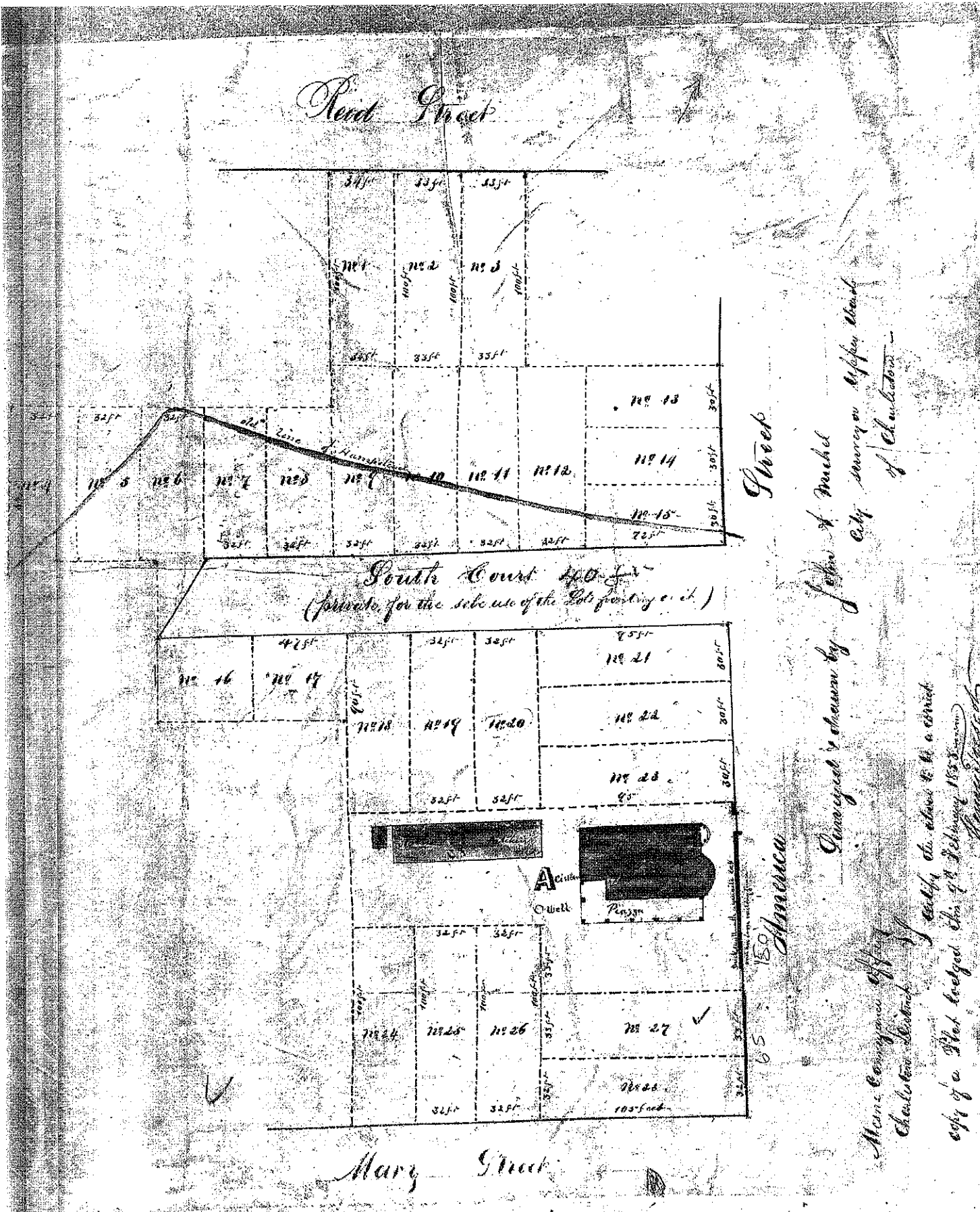
America

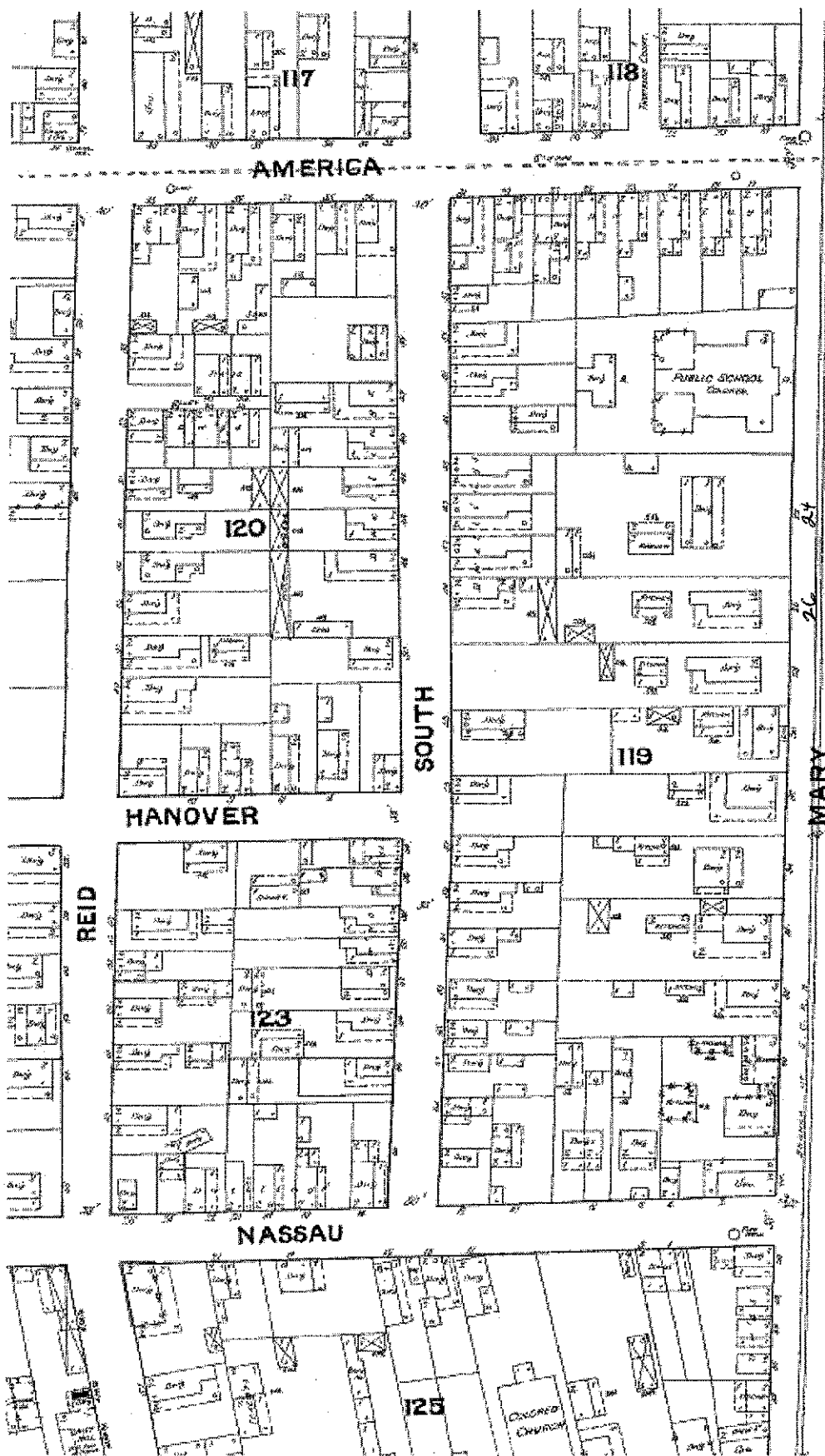
Mary Street

Quarried & shown by John A. Michel
City Surveyor of New York
of Charleston -

Man. Company of
Charleston District

Each lot shown to be a divided
copy of a Plat lodged this 9th February 1858
Mary Street
No. 27





26
CHARLESTON SC

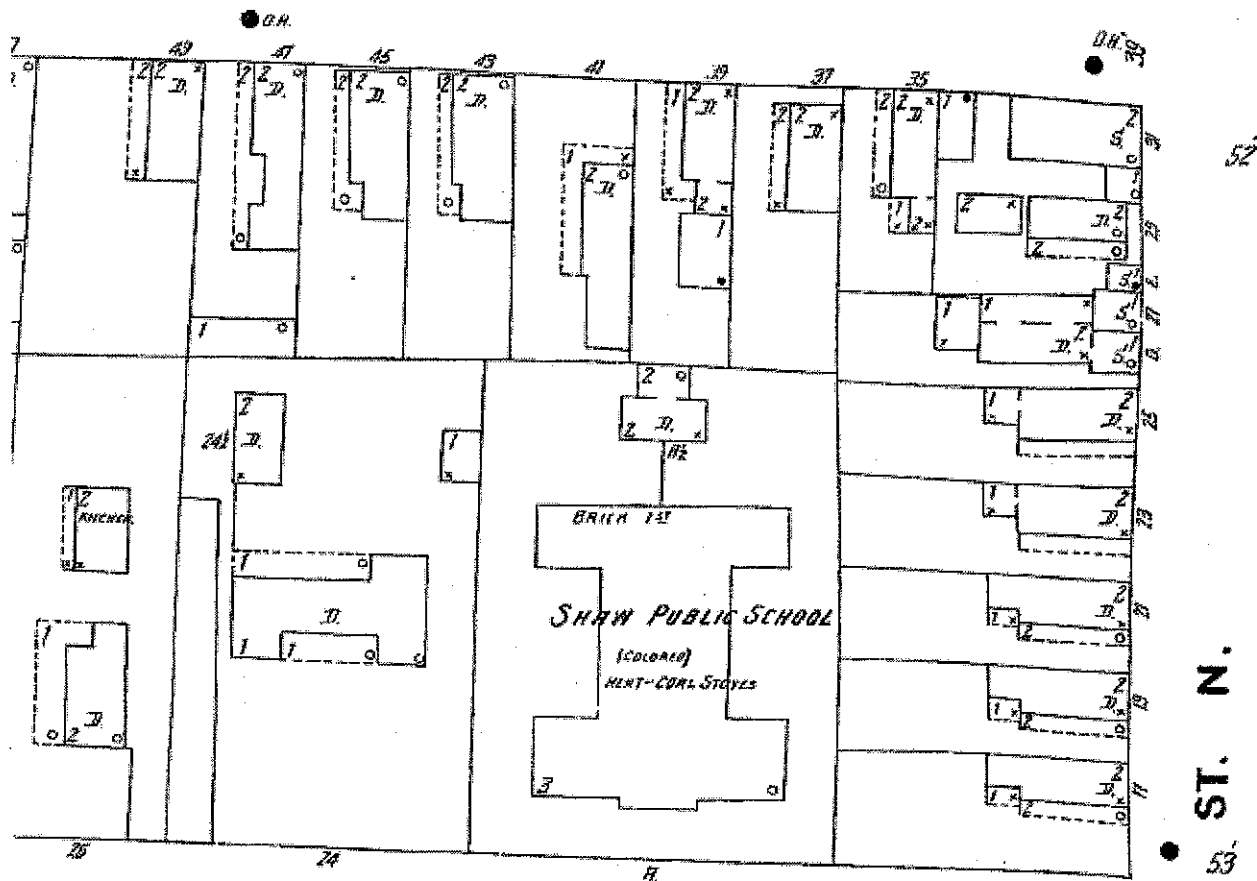
N 9 27

ELIZABETH

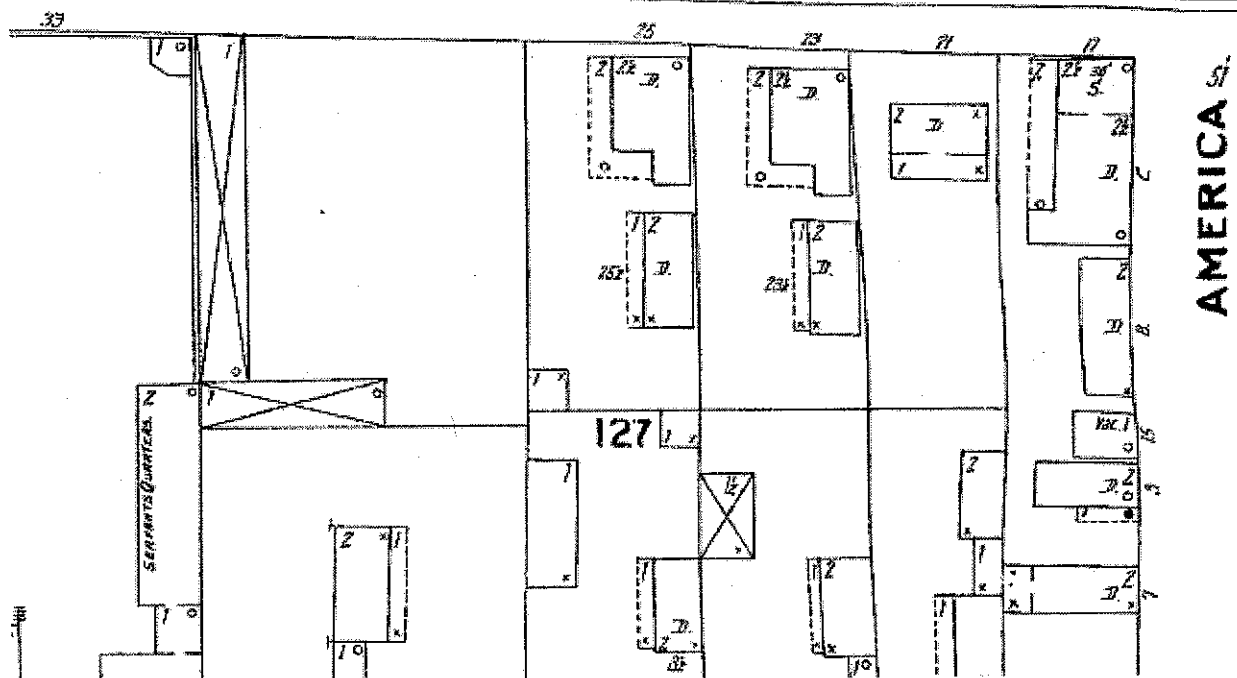
SHEET

SEE

Γ. E.



T. E.



Map of Charleston
1878

SC Room 11-2-09

1878 map of Charleston

#37

Fig. 1

Having described Marks lines boundaries and boundaries
of the same by the Marks in Equity recorded said premises
Together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said
premises belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining.

To Have and to Hold all and singular the premises before mentioned unto the said
Chas. Halliwell, Rufus Sartor, George Brown, Cuth. J. W. Higgins and B. W. Horner Trustees of the said
Shaw Successors of said Trust and assigns forever
And I do hereby bind myself my heirs
and administrators to warrant and forever defend all and singular the premises unto the said
Chas. Halliwell, Rufus Sartor, George Brown, Cuth. J. W. Higgins and
B. W. Horner Trustees aforesaid, their Successors and
heirs and assigns against the Y. M. Y. King
wholly claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof

Witness My hand and seal this
of March
and Sixty Eight
of the Independence of the United States of America

Twenty Fifth
In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and in the Twenty Second

R. A. Shaw

...and as often as need or occasion shall be or require, ...
 and for time therein to be well and sufficiently repaired and ...
 except in case of fire or other destruction of the Buildings. Provided ...
 ...shall and will maintain on said ...
 ...a good free school open to all ...
 ...of the said party of the second part, its successors or assigns shall ...
 ...for any period exceeding nine (9) months at any one time to keep ...
 ...maintain such free school as is provided for herein then the ...
 ...of the first part, their survivors, successors, or assigns, shall have leave ...
 ...one month's notice in writing to be given to the party of the second part ...
 ...successors, or assigns, to enter into and upon the said premises or any part ...
 ...thereof, in the name of the whole, to possess the same as of the second part ...
 ...thereof, in the name of the whole, to possess the same as of said parties of ...
 ...the first part former estate, and except the said party of the second part and ...
 ...there claiming under it, and remove said second party's effects finally if ...
 ...space, without being taken or deemed guilty of any manner of trespass.

In testimony whereof the said Rufus Sexton, George W. Curtis, J. H. ...
 ...and C. W. Hooper surviving auditors as aforesaid, have hereunto set ...
 ...their hands and seals by Reuben Tomlinson their Attorney hereunto ...
 ...duly authorized by powers of Attorney dated May 15th 1874 and the said ...
 ...Board of School Commissioners of the City of Charleston by George I. ...
 ...Acting Chairman has affixed its seal the day and year first above written

Witness my hand and seal in the presence of
 the undersigned in place of July in the
 first line and George I. Curtis acting in the
 sixth line from the bottom of the 2nd page having
 just been written
 William Stone

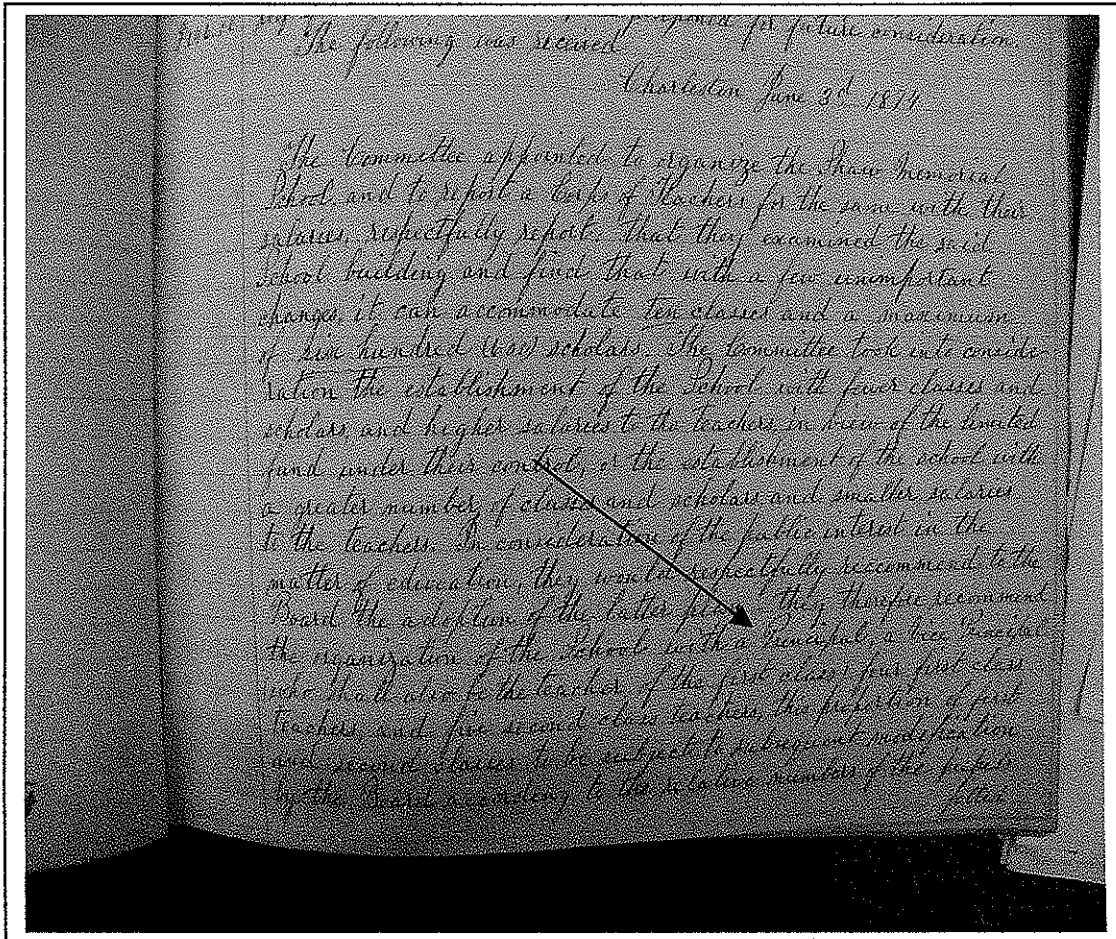
Reuben Tomlinson Atty and
 the Board of School Commissioners
 of the City of Charleston by
 Geo I. Curtis
 Act Chairman

W. Board
 Allen
 Edson
 Jan

(B)

First

Fig. 4



Charleston Board of School Commissioners meeting notes, June 3rd 1874

Chairman pro tem ~~for~~ to continue during the absence of
 Col. Memminger.
 On Motion Will of Abraham & Syle, for Commission
 on adjusted claim of Contractor Grant, for \$600⁰⁰, was read
 to be paid.
 Mr. Porter moved that the papers and letter of Mr.
 Hooper, now in his possession, be turned over to Mr. Bryan
 with instructions to execute lease of Shaw School for a
 term of 99 years, as proposed by Trustees of said school.
 adopted.
 Col. Memminger moved the following—
 Resolved that a Committee of three be appointed to
 to procure estimates and to make Contracts for the impro-
 vements of the Shaw School not to exceed \$1,600⁰⁰, and
 that the work be carried on during the summer.

Charleston Board of School Commissioners meeting minutes, June
 9th, 1874

OCTOBER 15, 1938.

SHAW TO HOUSE 60 OF REFUGEES

88 Families Already Have Been Rehabilitated by Red Cross

The Shaw school building, converted into temporary refuge for storm-stricken, homeless Charleston negroes, yesterday was put into use as such for the first time when two families with a total of about ten children moved in.

Additional families will be moved in today, and about sixty refugees are expected to be sheltered there soon.

An estimated total of 2,772 persons, in need of aid as result of the tornadoes two weeks ago, were registered at Red Cross headquarters when the books closed Thursday night, it was said yesterday by Miss Helen Colwell, civilian relief director.

Of these, Miss Colwell, added, eighty-eight families have been rehabilitated. Rehabilitation will continue at the rate of about 100 such cases a week until the task is completed, she said.

A case, or family, represents an average of four and one-half individuals.

\$9,052 Contributed

Red Cross workers from national headquarters in Washington and from several Southeastern states, will continue their work here until all refugees are rehabilitated nearly as possible to their status before the tornadoes.

When a refugee's rehabilitation is beyond the scope of Red Cross work, the refugee is referred to some other agency.

Contributions received at the local headquarters, 307 Meeting street, yesterday reached \$9,052, Mrs. Azile Brown Tyler, executive secretary, announced. National headquarters has set the goal here at \$10,000. It has been estimated that the Red Cross work with refugees here will cost more than \$100,000. Other cities in the Southeast also have been assigned quotas but they have not been announced.

The Charleston health department, which started an anti-typhoid clinic Monday as a post-disaster measure, reported that 2,720 persons had been inoculated through yesterday.

A central clinic for both whites and negroes will be held at the county center this morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Clinics Scheduled

The clinic schedule for next week and the following week will be:

Mondays, James Simons school for whites; Burke Industrial school for negroes.

Tuesday's, St. Joseph's school for whites; Buist school for negroes.

Wednesdays, Seamen's Home for whites; Custom House for negroes.

Fridays, Trinity A. M. E. church, Meeting and Addison streets, for negroes.

Saturdays, Central clinic, county Center, 9:30 a. m.

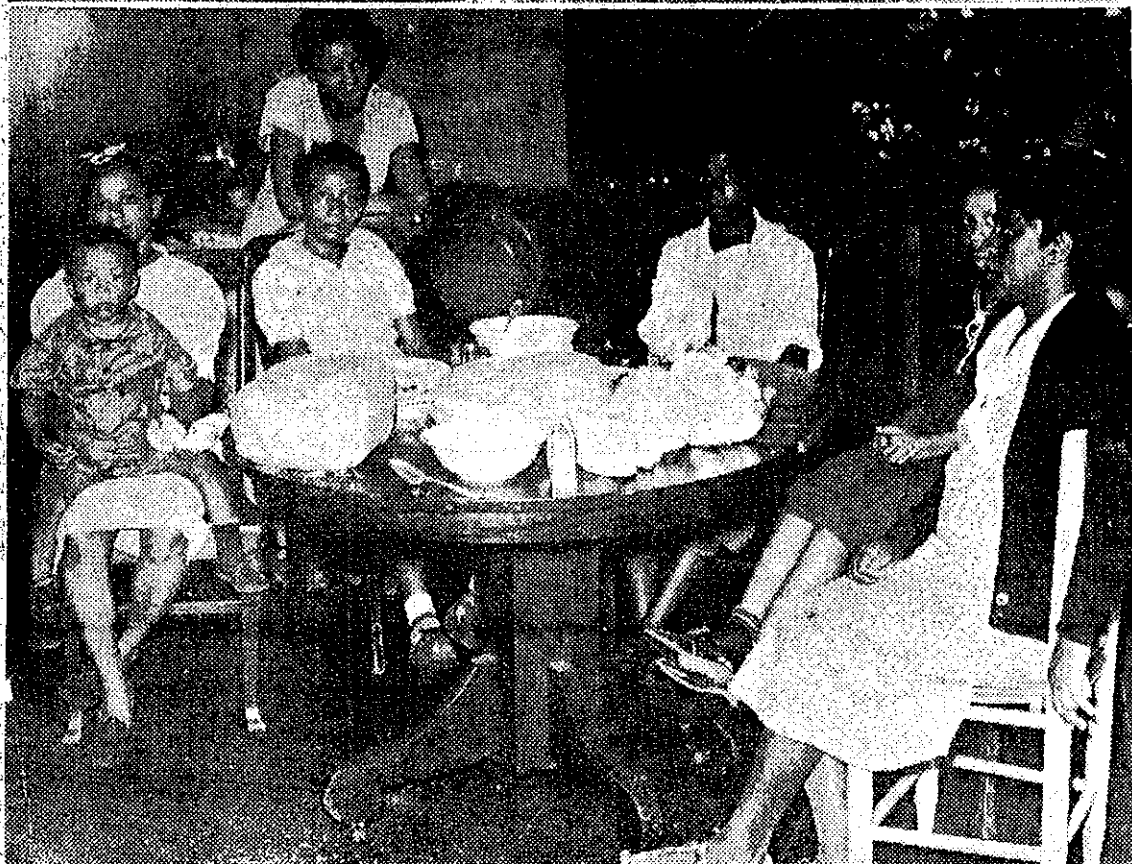
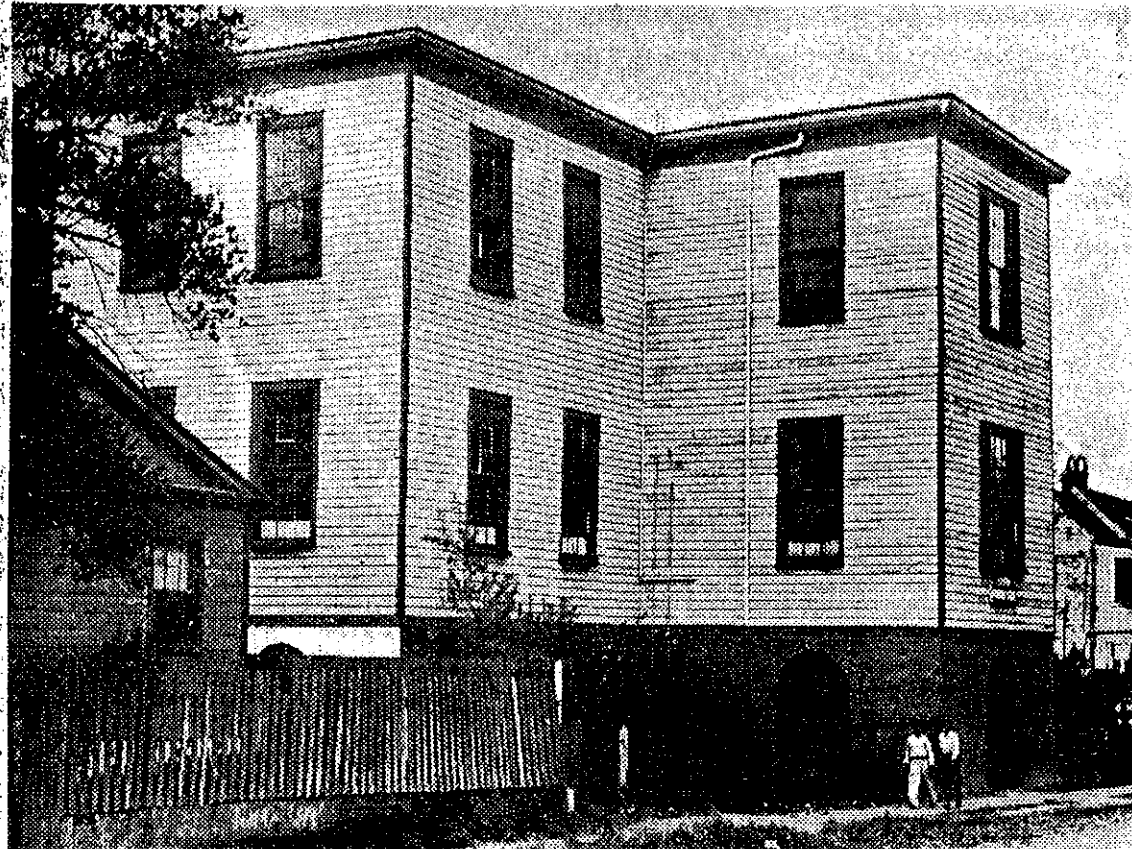
All except the central clinic begin at 4 p. m.

The following additional list of contributors to the tornado relief fund has been reported by the Red Cross:

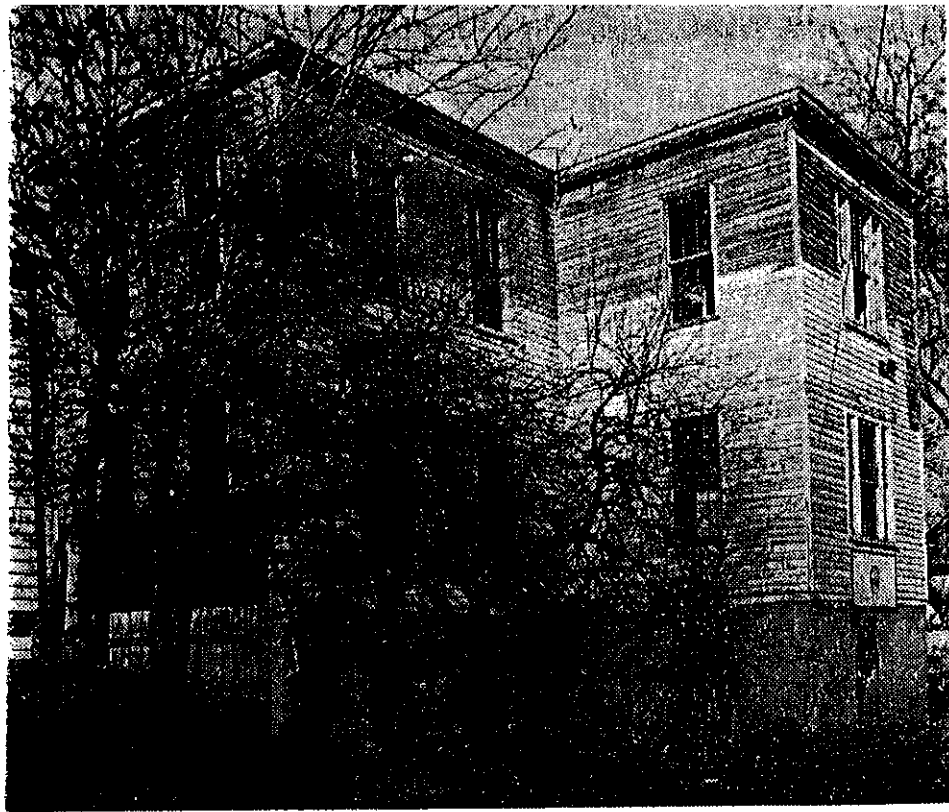
Mrs. George S. Henry, Laguna Beach, Calif., \$5; Charles Parsons, Kennebunk, Maine, \$25; Anonymous, \$20; E. Willoughby Middleton, Rochester, N. Y., \$25; W. Lucas Simons, \$10; the German Friendly society, \$25; J. A. Jones Construction company, Charlotte, \$100; Mrs. W. H. Zeigler, \$3; a little thank offering, \$1; Factory Employees of General Asbestos and Rubber company, \$31; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Kingman, Columbia, \$2.

Also, Charleston Post No. 10, American Legion, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. D. Wiles, \$3; Miss Aluth Mims, \$1; Anderson Lodge, B. P. O. E., \$25; Woolworth Five and Ten Cent store, Radcliffe and King streets, \$10; Mrs. Johanna W. Doughty, \$3; Women's Wesley Bible class, Spring Street Methodist church, \$5; Cooper Street station, Charleston Oil company, \$5, and the Henry P. Archer school, \$19.

Refugees Given New Start in Former School



TWO REFUGEE FAMILIES now are housed in the old Shaw school building and other tornado victims soon are to be provided for there temporarily. The building, in Mary street, is shown above. One of the families is that of Eliza Grant and her nine children, seven of whom are shown here with their mother. All their furniture and clothing have been furnished by the Red Cross. The mother is on the extreme right.



(Staff Photo by Swain)

Shaw Center Nominated For Register

Center Is Put On Register

By JOHN A. ALSTON
Staff Reporter

The Robert Gould Shaw Center at 26 Mary St. has recently been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its important role in local black history.

Almost simultaneous with that announcement from the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Council of Governments, however, were the unveiling of plans to renovate the building and continue its history of service to black people.

The City of Charleston will spend some \$200,000 in 1973 from revenue sharing money to restore the structure.

Plans for the center fulfill "a dream of mine for I don't know how many years now," says Rep. Herbert U. Fielding, president of the newly reorganized Robert Gould Shaw Boys Club.

According to Fielding the renovations will provide space for a boys club and scout activities, a day-care center, community meeting rooms, and a "supervised study" area for youngsters who find studying at home difficult.

The building was vacated around 1968 when there were

plans to install the Franklin C. Fetter Comprehensive Health Center in it.

A legal cloud over the title brought those plans to a halt however and the building has been vacant ever since.

But, the city proceeded with condemnation proceedings which cleared the title and it now appears a new page in local black history is about to be written.

The building is named for Col. Robert Gould Shaw, commander of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment for Free Negroes of the Union Army. This unit was beaten in a Civil War battle on Morris Island during an attack on Battery Wagner.

Sometime after Shaw's death his family and friends in Boston began raising funds for a monument.

The precise history of the "Shaw Monument Fund" is hazy and is generally gleaned from legal papers filed in the R.M.C. office.

According to a quit claim deed, dated June 26, 1883 the funds were placed in the hands of five trustees who described themselves as "self constituted trustees of said fund no corporation having ever been formed and no formal association having been made."

Do You Know Your Charleston?

The quit claim deed reveals that the group first purchased land on Rutledge Avenue but sold it on March 16, 1868 "in order to purchase another lot in Mary Street which was deemed more suitable for the purpose."

The Rutledge Avenue property was sold for \$2,500 and that amount was then used to purchase the present site on Mary Street.

Elias Bull, historical planning consultant for the Regional Council, says that it can't be determined when the building was erected but in 1874 a "two-story wooden building" on the site was leased to the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Charleston.

A stipulation of the lease is that the building "be perpetually devoted to educational purposes and that the pupils shall never be excluded therefrom or from said benefits and profits arising from such rental or sale on account of race or previous condition of servitude."

In 1883, the land was leased to the same board for 99

years on condition that "a good free school" be maintained and providing that the land revert to the trustees if a school was not maintained.

The next mention of the building is in 1938 when the Board of Public School Commissioners conveyed the lease to a group of individuals known as the "Trustees of the Shaw Memorial School and Welfare Center."

As the years went by, the building was used for a variety of functions including housing a Boys Club, and as a social service center for Negro youth from kindergarten age through teen-age.

During World War II, federal funds were used to install a 60-bed dormitory as a "Charleston Service Men's Club."

Though Fielding thinks the center will provide many of the services that were provided to black citizens in past-times, there may be one difference.

Several news stories in The News and Courier during the 1940's record the wholesome diet fed to kindergarten students each morning; fruit juice and cod liver oil.

That probably won't be a part of new programs.

NC 12-24-72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE 4/11/73

1. NAME				
COMMON: Shaw Community Center				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Shaw Memorial School				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 22 Mary Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston				
STATE: South Carolina		CODE: 45	COUNTY: Charleston	
			CODE: 019	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
				Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Not in use	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: City of Charleston				
STREET AND NUMBER: Broad Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston		STATE: South Carolina		CODE: 45
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Mesne Conveyance				
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 Court House Square				
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston		STATE: South Carolina		CODE: 45
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: S.C. Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary and In Progress)				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: S.C. Department of Archives and History				
STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station				
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia		STATE: South Carolina		CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story clapboard flat-roofed structure resting on a high brick foundation was erected c. 1874 as a school house for the Robert Gould Memorial School. Originally it was in the shape of a Latin cross with the arms of the cross located nearest and parallel to Mary Street. Later two wings (rear addition) were added to the rear of this structure which matched the crosspiece.

The facade, consisting of a central projection and the two arms of the crosspiece, was originally brick and contained three tiers of arches, open to the front and sides. The facade's high brick foundation is pierced by semicircular arches, as are the sides of this structure, and above each arch on both stories are nine over nine light double sash windows. These windows are used entirely throughout this structure with only a slight variation on the front central projection that includes a nine over nine window with eight pane side lights (four to a side) on both the first and second floor. The central projection also has a window at either side on each floor, while the front wings of the facade have two windows at each wing on each floor.

Identical side walls have the following window arrangement: on the end of the front crosspiece, two windows; in the rear of the front crosspiece, one window; side walls between the front and rear wing, one window, one door with large transom, one window (upper levels on sides have three windows); front of rear addition, one window; sides of rear addition, two windows; back of rear addition, two windows. At the end of the staff portion of the cross is a centrally located door with large transom on each floor flanked by windows, one to a side above a single enclosed arch. This arrangement implies that a small portico existed here at one time. The brick foundation of the rear addition is pierced with square windows and the area is enclosed.

On the west side where the crosspiece joins the building is a single flue modern chimney. It is probable that the building at one time had two exterior chimneys, but these may have been removed when the rear addition was added. There is also a fire escape on either side of this structure.

Nomination includes two coach houses.

The City of Charleston hopes to convert this complex of buildings to a recreational center.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian;☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phil.☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ IsotopyBlack History☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

various

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building was built to house the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial School. Robert Gould Shaw was the Commanding officer of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment of free Negroes. He and his regiment were destroyed in the attack on Fort Wagner, Morris Island near Charleston Harbor. His family and friends furnished the fund for the school. This school was one of the earliest free schools in the South that blacks could attend.

Education: In 1874, the year of the school's beginning, the fund's trustees deeded it to the Board of School Commissioners for the City of Charleston.

"...provided the party of the second part its successors or assignees shall and will maintain the said lands during the continuance of this lease, a good free school open to all children without distinction of race or previous condition of servitude and that such school so to be maintained shall be called the Shaw Memorial School"

South Carolina Register of Mesne Conveyance,
Book P-16, p. 205.

Black History: The Shaw Memorial School is important to black history because it was begun as a tribute to the bravery of Robert G. Shaw and his men, members of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment of free Negroes, one of the first all black fighting units in United States military history.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unspoiled
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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Nomination includes two coach houses.

The City of Charleston hopes to convert this complex of buildings to a recreational center.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burchard, Peter. One Gallant Rush. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1965.

South Carolina Register of Mesne Conveyance, Book P-16, p. 205 and Book Z-19, p. 52.

Wallace, David Duncan. History of South Carolina. 4 vols. New York: American Historical Society, 1934.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32 °	47 '	32 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	79 °	56 '	06 "
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.33 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Elias B. Bull</u> (Bernard Kearse -Archives)		DATE <u>October 8, 1972</u>
ORGANIZATION <u>Berkley-Charleston-Dorchester Planning Committee</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>2 Court House Square</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Charleston</u>	STATE <u>South Carolina</u>	CODE <u>45</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name

Charles E. Lee

Title

Director, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History

Date

11/14/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
PART 1 – EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

NPS Office Use Only

NRIS No:

NPS Office Use Only

Project No:

Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certifications will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Type or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of Property: Shaw Memorial School

Address of Property: Street 22 Mary St

City Charleston County Charleston State SC Zip 29403

Name of historic district Mazyck-Wragborough

☒ National Register district ☐ certified state or local district ☐ potential district

2. Check nature of request:

- ☐ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district (or National Register property) for the purpose of rehabilitation.
- ☒ certification that the structure or building, and where appropriate, the land area on which such structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes
- ☐ certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named historic district.
- ☐ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.
- ☐ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.
- ☐ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Project contact:

Name Samuel Woodson

Street Elizabeth St City Charleston

State SC Zip 29403 Daytime Telephone Number _____

4. Owner:

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the property described above. I understand that falsification of factual representations in this application is subject to criminal sanctions of up to \$10,000 in fines or imprisonment for up to five years pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Name Samuel Woodson Signature _____ Date 11/14/09

Organization _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Telephone Number _____

NPS Office Use Only

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Certification Application – Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

- ☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district (or National Register property) and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.
- ☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.
- ☐ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary determinations:

- ☐ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
- ☐ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.
- ☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- ☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.
- ☐ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

Date _____

National Park Service Authorized Signature _____

National Park Service Office/Telephone No. _____

☐ See Attachments

HISTORIC PRESERVATIONBoys and Girls Club, Shaw Unit
Property Name**CERTIFICATION APPLICATION –
PART 1**

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

22 Mary St

Property Address

5. Description of physical appearance:

The Shaw Memorial School was originally built in 1874 as a three story flat roofed, clapboard structure, resting on a high brick foundation with tall arches set into the brickwork. In 1974 structure underwent extensive renovations, which included removing all floors above the basement level, leaving the brick foundation as the only remaining original structure.

The current building is a flat roofed, one and one half story, brick building with high arches set into the brickwork. All of the brickwork is covered by green stucco and extends approx. ten feet up from ground level. Above this there is a four-foot tall, stuccoed pediment that terminates at the roofline. The façade of the building is organized into three equal sections, with the middle portion closest to the street. The left section contains two identical, large brick archways containing one set of bifold windows in each. The middle section contains one large, centered archway that has been filled in with brick, slightly recessed from the face of the building to define the shape of the arch. The right section is a mirror image of the left, containing the same windows. Between the middle section and right section of the building, there is a recessed doorway that serves as the entrance to the Boys and girls club.

The buildings footprint is in the form of a capitol letter "I" with two wings (protruding East and West) at the far back end of the building, and the same wings mirrored at the front end. As described above, the front of the building contains a protruding middle section that is closer to the street than the rest of the façade, this protrusion is the same size as the wings, but is closer to the road than any other section of the building. The "body" of the letter "I" contains a partial second story which makes it set back from the road.

Date of Construction: 1868

Source of Date: Avery Research Center Memorabilia Collection / RMC Charleston
SC

Date(s) of Alteration(s): 1974

Has building been moved? ☐ yes ☒ no If so, when?**6. Statement of significance:**

The Shaw Memorial School was established in 1868 in memory of Col. Robert Gould Shaw of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, the first black infantry of the North. Shaw and the 54th regiment is most known for their 1863 attack on Ft Wagner on Morris Island, SC where he and many of his men lost their lives. In 1868, the Shaw Monument fund was established, and five trustees were appointed to raise funds to build a monument in memory of their courageous leader that so many of the men trusted and befriended during their time in the 54th. A number of these trustees were members of the regiment and were the driving force in the establishment and funding of the Monument Fund. It was soon decided that the money raised should be used to open a "good free school" for free blacks in the city of Charleston. The current site on Mary Street was chosen, and a two-story building was erected. The Shaw Memorial School was primarily funded by the New England Freedman's Aid Society and the Freedman's Bureau; it housed teachers and administration from both the North and the South. In 1872, the funding from the North was no longer enough to support the school, and the Trustees decided to lease the school building and furniture to the City Board of School Commissioners for a period of ten years. After the ten-year lease expired, the Trustees renewed the lease for 99 years under the understanding that a school be maintained for the people of Charleston. In 1919, the Shaw Memorial closed its doors, and in 1938 the building became a settlement house. In 1957, the Boys and Girls Club, Shaw Unit was established to give the youth of the city of Charleston a safe place to go after school and learn and interact in a positive manner, offering them a better future. Due to its community connection and roots in serving those in need in the community, the Shaw Memorial School site was the perfect fit for the Boys and Girls club to occupy. In 1971, the building was taken over by the City of Charleston due to neglect and was considered condemned only to be put on the national register in 1973. Soon after, in 1974 the city invested \$200,000 to the rehabilitation of the building, which included removing all but the brick level (lower level) of the building- the only remaining part of the original structure. It was also at this time that the building was removed from the National Register. Although the majority of the structure has been removed, the site itself is a testament to the lives of free blacks in Charleston and the educating of youth in the area. Its story begins in the historic battle at Ft Wagner and is still being told today through the lives of the children of the Boys and Girls club and hopefully will be for many years to come.

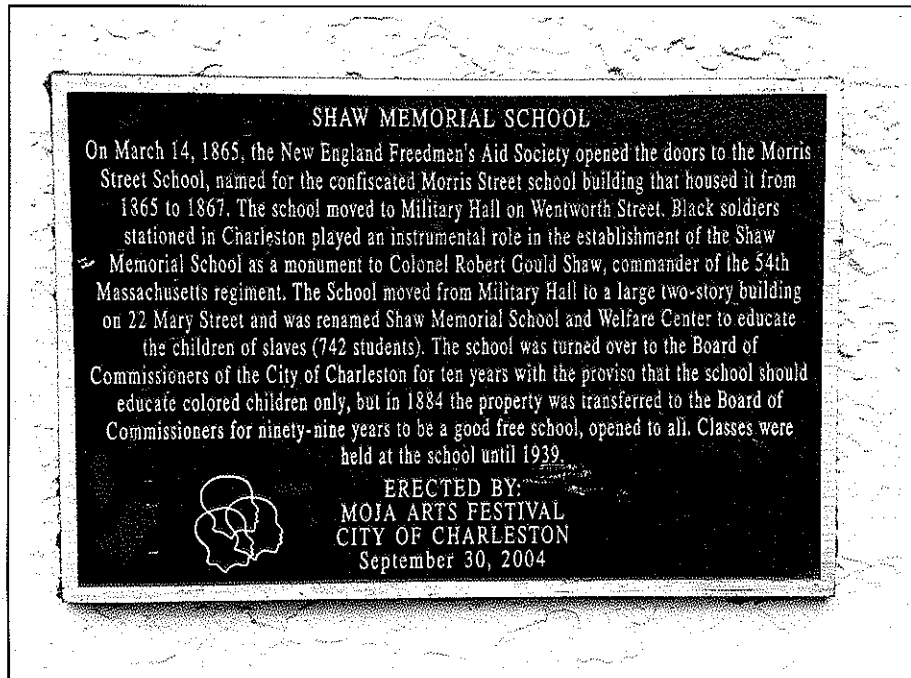
7. Photographs and maps.

Attach photographs and maps to application

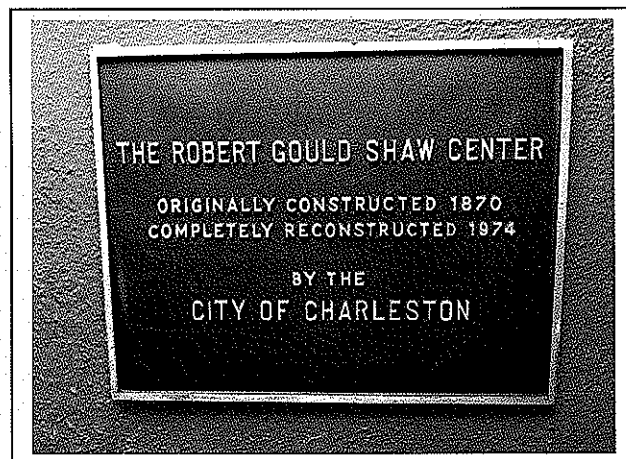
Continuation sheets attached: ☐ yes ☒ no



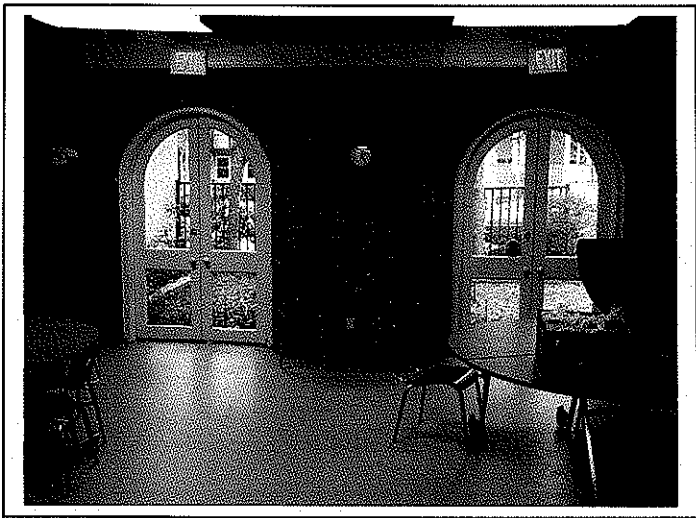
Current Photos of the Shaw Memorial School, The Boys and Girls
Club of Charleston



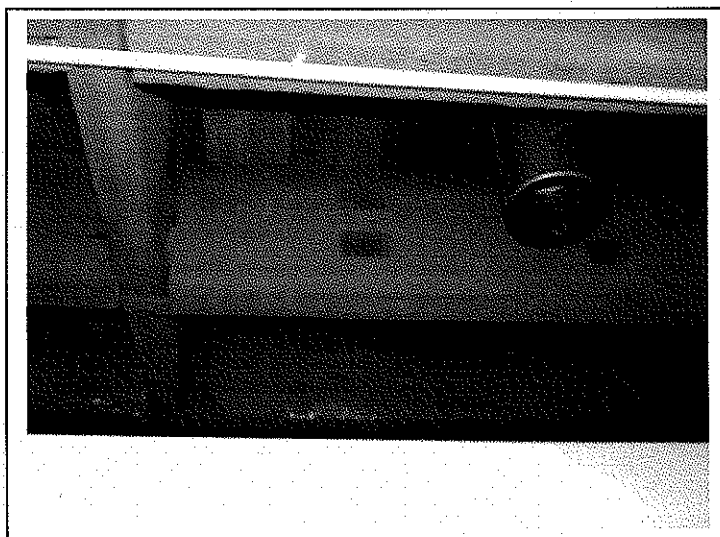
Plaque on front exterior



Plaque leading at base of stairs to second floor



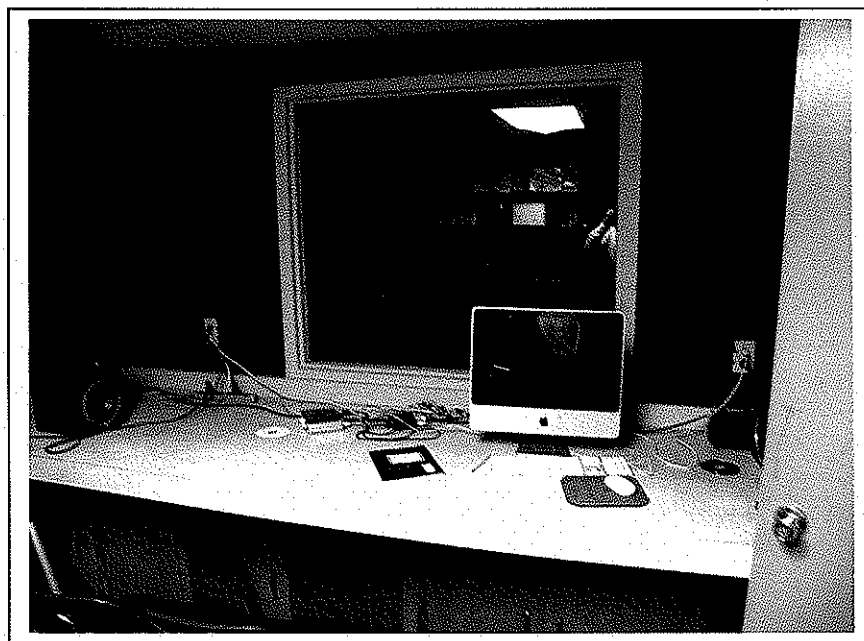
Original brick work as seen from interior
of building



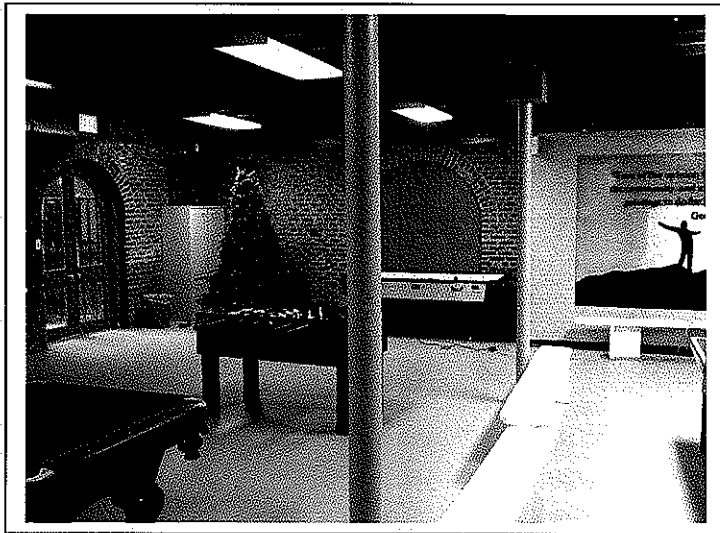
Floor joists as seen from ground level



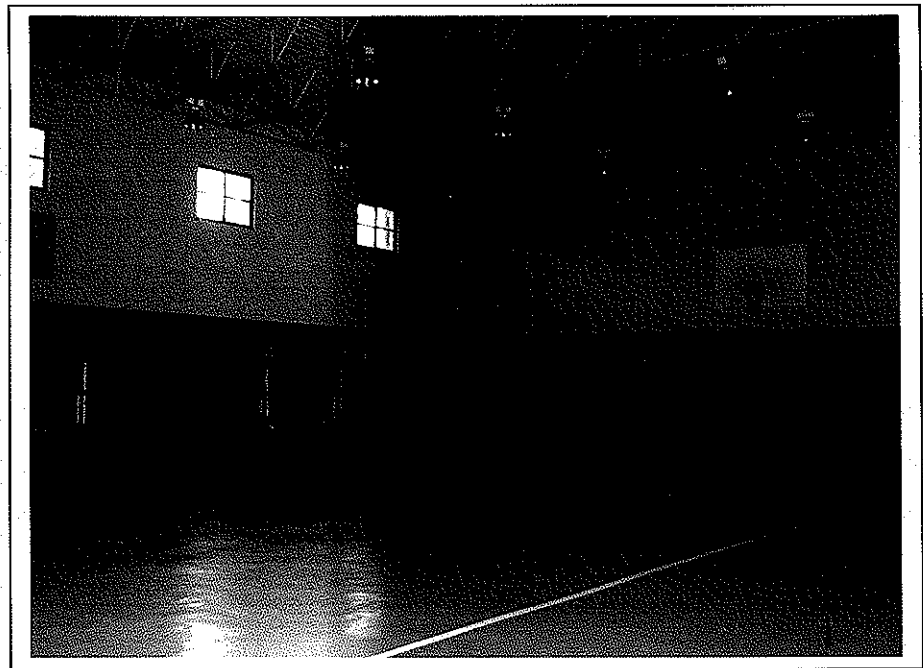
Computer lab, 2nd story addition



Recording studio located on 2nd floor



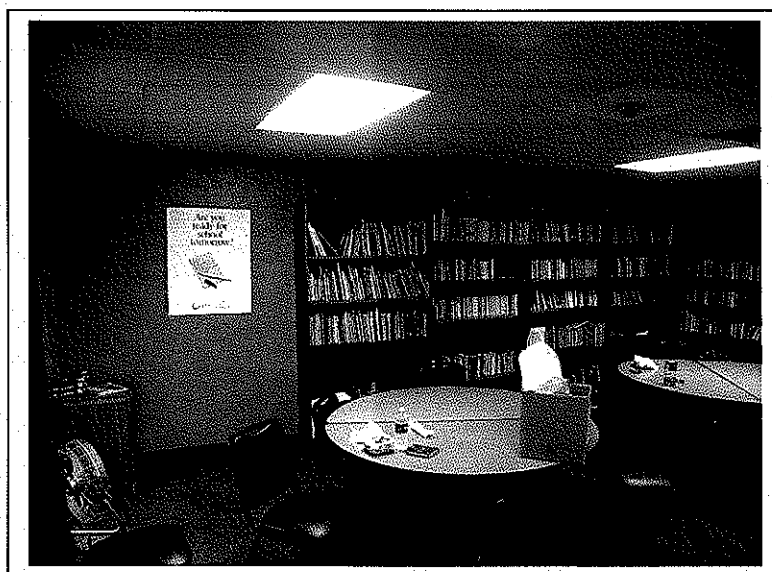
Recreation room, first floor



Gymnasium addition



Exterior of Gymnasium



Interior of library