

ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

The Building of
Junior No. 1



ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

January 7

The Junior High School Movement and the building of Trenton's other junior high school

January 21

Herman C. Mueller, School Board President and owner of the Mueller Mosaic Tile Company

February 4

The Segregation/Desegregation of Trenton Schools: Hedgepeth-Williams vs the Trenton Board of Education

February 18

Photographing the Decaying Junior No. 1 by J. Carlos Vargas (exterior) and Robert J. Sammons (interior)

February 25

William A Poland, Architect of Junior No. 1 and over 2,000 other buildings

March 4

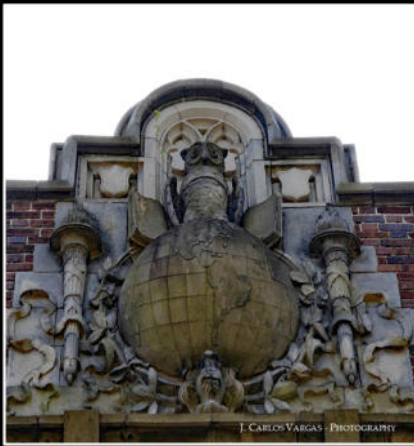
Junior No. 1 School Days – a talk with former Principal Albert Williams and teachers

March 18

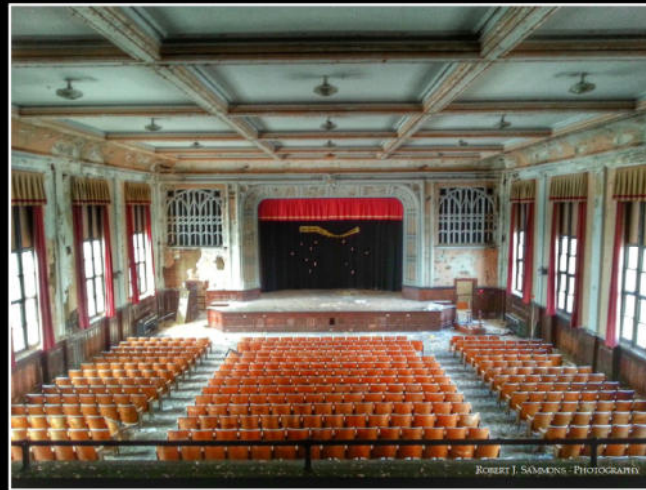
The 1916 Polio Epidemic and the Building of Trenton's Municipal Colony

ON THE FOREFRONT: Trenton's Junior No. 1, 1916

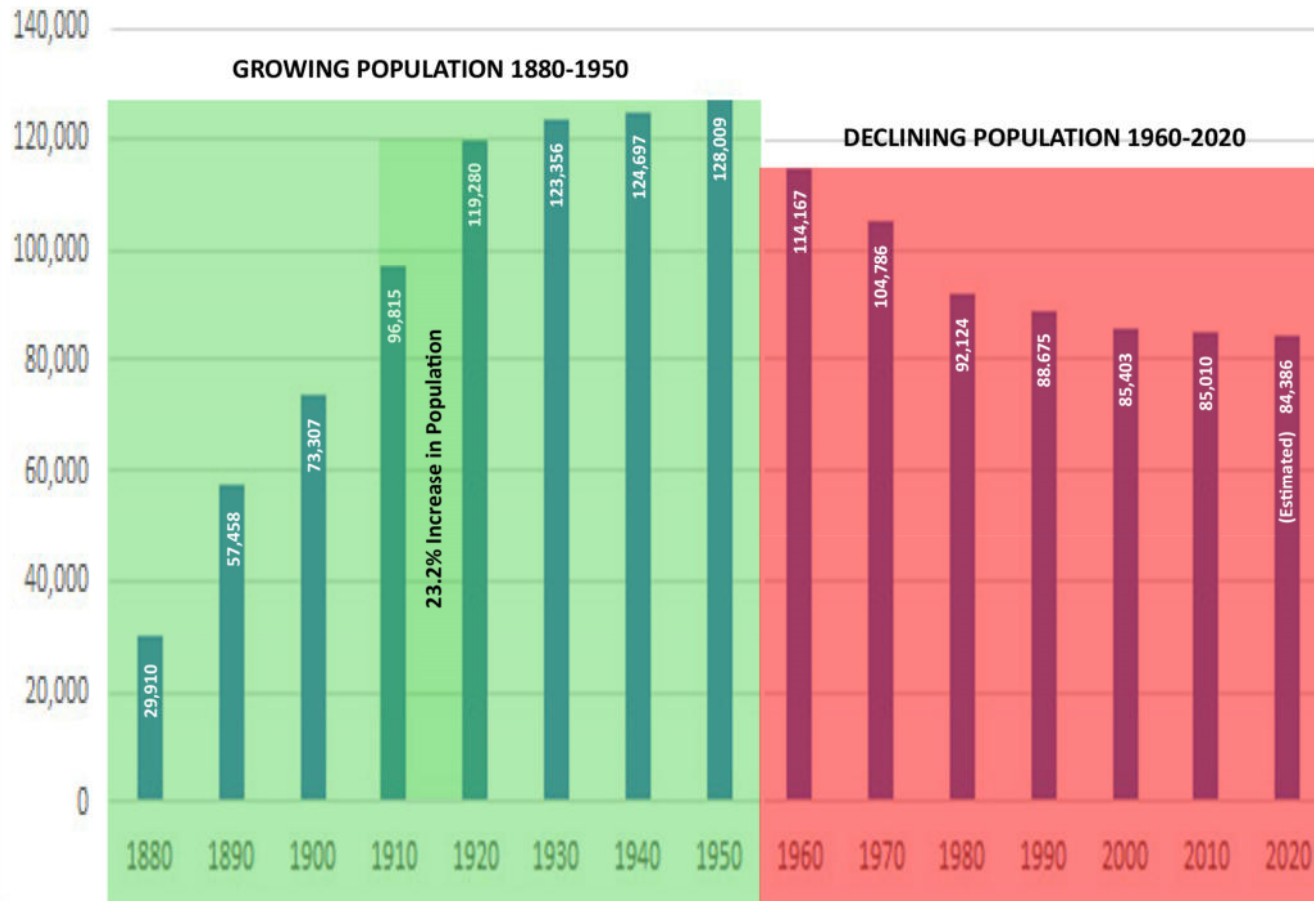
September 26, 2020 – April 25, 2021



The Owl—the school's mascot



US CENSUS POPULATION OF TRENTON 1880-2020



Trenton Schools were
Over Crowded

From 1900-1910
population increased from
73,707 to 96,816

Increase of 23,109 or 31%

From 1910-1920
population increased from
96,815 to 119,280

Increase of 22,465 or 23%

East Ward schools were
the most crowded

Key Players in Building the School:



Herman C. Mueller
Industrialist

President of the Mueller
Mosaic Company

School Board President
(1914-1918)



Frederick W.
Donnelly
Mayor of Trenton
(1911-1935)



William A.
Poland
Architect

Employed by
the School
Board
(1911-1935)



William A. Wetzel
Principal of
Trenton High
(1901-1935)

Briefly the first
Principal of Jr. 1

Adaption of the Junior High School Plan, 1914

Trenton Schools were arranged by 8 years of elementary school followed by 4 years of high school

- Training was in the direction of college for those who continued on to high school

In 1914 the School Board adopts the 6-6 or 6-3-3 plan

- Provides a more varied and effective education for students of the adolescent age.
- The seventh, eighth & ninth grades are to constitute the finishing touches of grammar school.
- The manual and domestic training is organized in large shops connected with the school.
- As young men and women are prepared for the high school, the foundation can also be laid for a technical career, so that they can go to a higher technical or artistic institution of learning.

The junior high school would offer three courses of study for boys and girls: Industrial, Commercial and Academic.

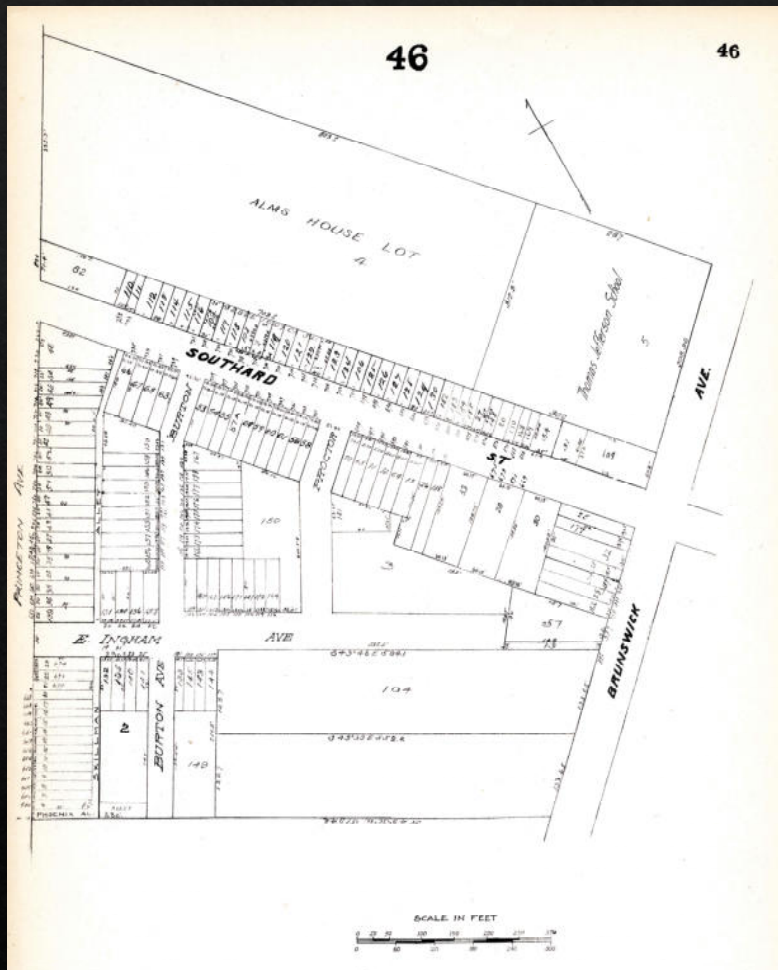
The Industrial Course includes the study of printing, elementary woodwork, freehand and mechanical drawing and manual training for the boys, and cooking, sewing and similar subjects for the girls.

The Commercial Course consists of the study of typewriting, bookkeeping and stenography.

The Academic Course includes the study of science, history, foreign languages, English, etc.

The junior high school grades would be ultimately be placed in new buildings planned with facilities for the new kind of education proposed.

The building of a new, modern high school to alleviate overcrowding would have to wait.



Almshouse (built 1871) Lot, formerly the Bower Farm

Properties Considered for site of the Junior High School

Mueller advocated locating near the present high school at Hamilton and Chestnut Avenues:

- Steven's Plot at Greenwood and Chestnut Avenues
- Tam's property on Greenwood Avenue and Monmouth Street
- Exton plot on Greenwood Avenue
- Chambers' tract extending from Cook to Hampton Avenues*

A syndicate of landowners was being formed in the section known as the Swamp (bounded by Stockton, Montgomery, Feeder and Allen Streets) to offer some five to six acres. It could rid the city of a district that had been an eyesore from sanitary and sociological lines. Objections would be the closeness to a canal-feeder and railroad largely devoted to carrying coal & difficulty securing a good foundation for a basement.

- 1914 the school board decides to purchase the Almshouse property for \$21,000 and intends to purchase the Reeder Chambers' tract on Greenwood Avenue, using both sites for junior high schools. Construction of the second junior high school would not begin until the first is completed
- The Chambers' tract is the preferred site for the first junior high school.
- However the cost of \$5,000 an acre for the Chambers track is considered too high the tract is not purchased. The Almshouse site is chosen for the first junior high school.

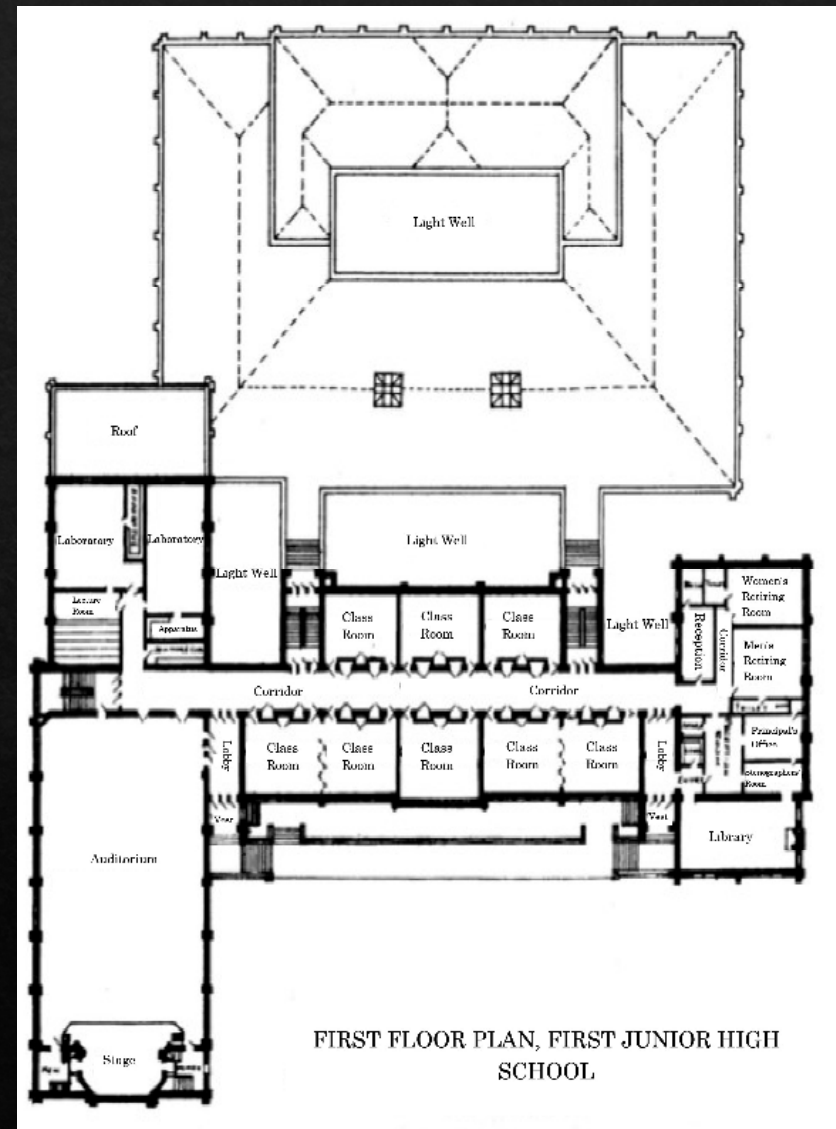
Architect William A. Poland, Board of Education Business Manager prepares a plan for a 33 room structure.

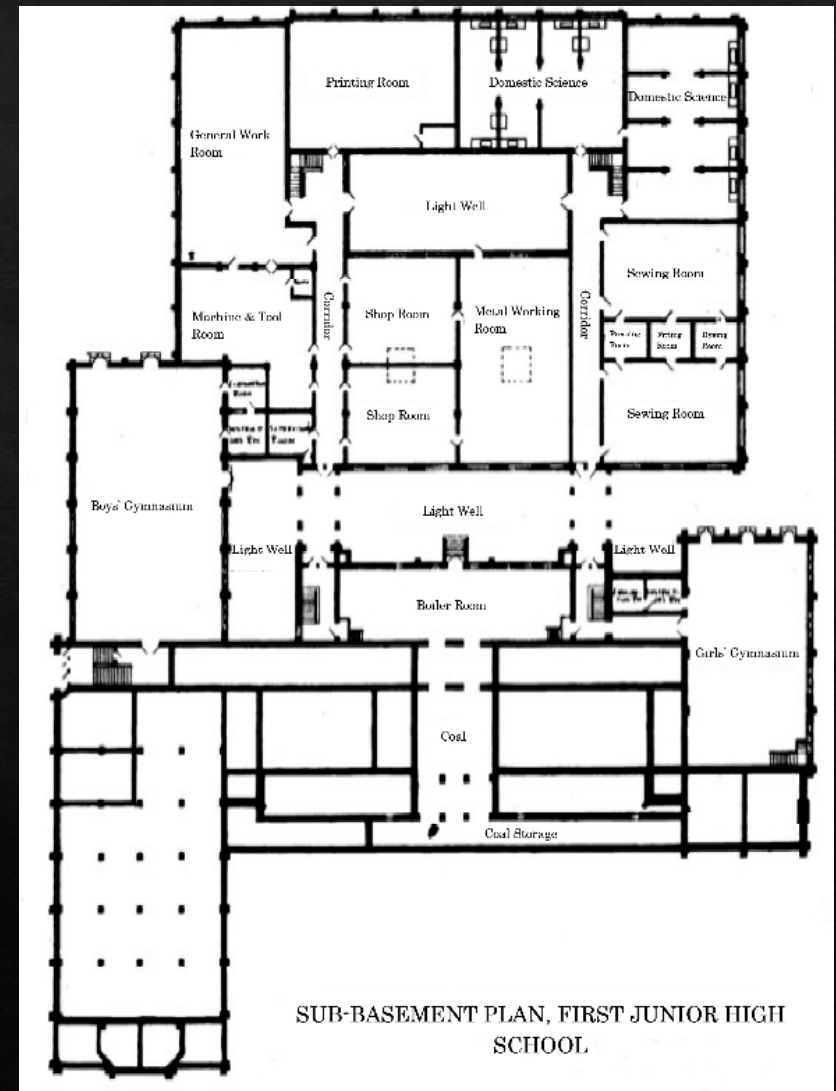
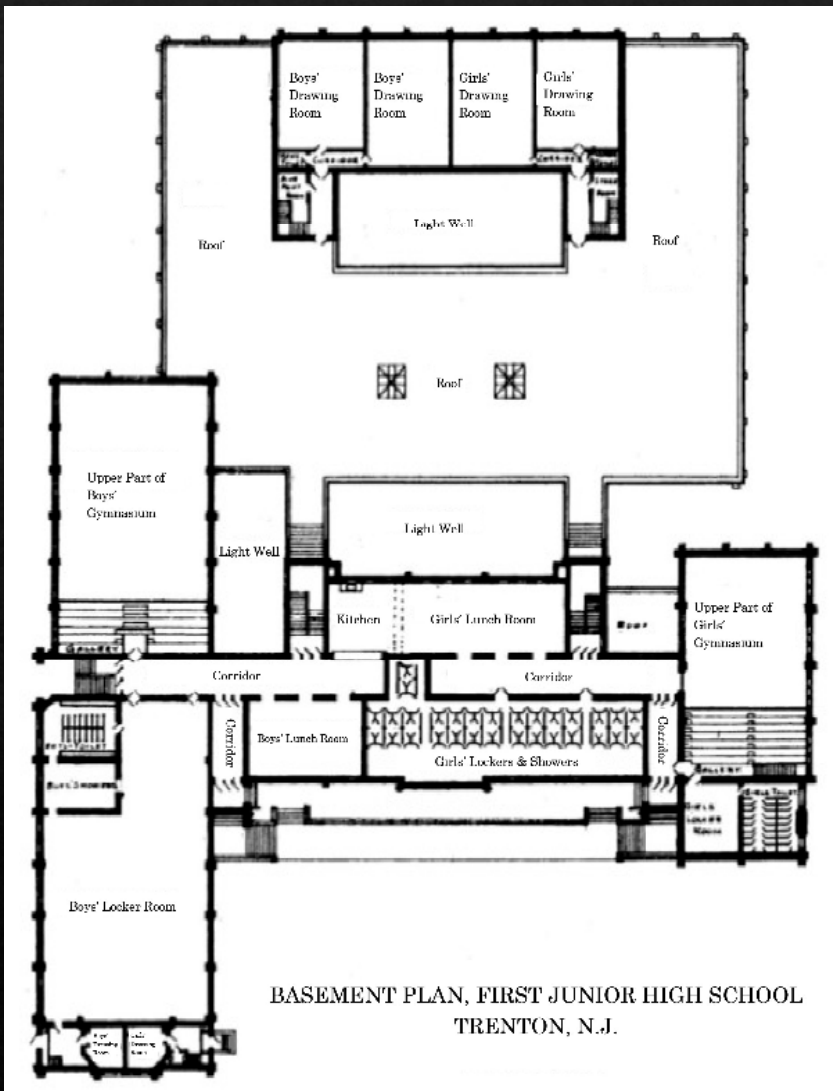
Estimates of \$220,000 for the building and \$30,000-\$40,000 for equipment

On account of the slope of descent of the ground, the rear of the building will contain four stories, the lower floors forming a basement and subbasement.

Accommodations for 1,000 in the main building and 300 in the shops at the back of the building.

| What Junior School Contains | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| SUB-BASEMENT | |
| Boys' Gymnasium | Girls' Gymnasium |
| Boiler Room | |
| SHOPS | |
| Printing Room | Sewing Room (2), (Dyeing and Fitting Rooms |
| Domestic Science Rooms (2) | Metal Working Room |
| Manual Training, Wood Working Room (2) | Machine and Tool Room |
| BASEMENT | |
| Boys' Drawing Room (2) (Blue Printing Rooms) | Boys' Lunch Room |
| Girls' Drawing Rooms (2) | Bicycle Racks |
| Kitchen | Girls' Locker, Toilet and Shower Rooms |
| Girls' Lunch Room | Boys' Locker, Toilet and Shower Rooms |
| Dressing Rooms under the stage | |
| FIRST FLOOR | |
| Laboratory (2) | Female Teachers' Retiring Room |
| Lecture Room | Library |
| Class Rooms (8) | Auditorium |
| Male Teachers' Retiring Room | Stage |
| Principal's Office, Reception Room and Stenographers' Room | |
| SECOND FLOOR | |
| Class Rooms (10) | Lecture Room |
| Laboratories (2) | Boys' Toilets |
| Apparatus Room (2) | Girls' Toilets |
| Dark Room | |
| Organ Loft (provided for in case organ is purchased) | |





Work begins in early 1915, starting with the raising of the old Almshouse.

5,000 people attend the laying of the cornerstone on September 26, 1915.

Seniors at the high school launch a program to place a pipe organ in the auditorium, October 1915.

The Board of Education purchase the Van Syckle property at Greenwood and Chestnut Avenues for the construction of the second junior high school, January 1916.

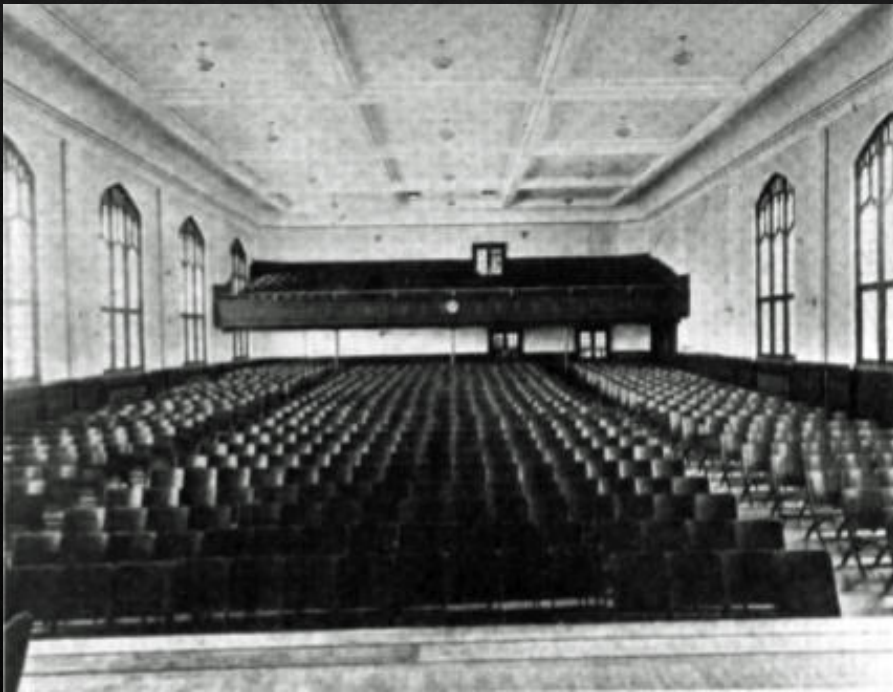
Residents of Southard Street whose property border on the grounds of the new junior high school complain about refuse being dumped upon the school grounds as fill, July 1916.

The Nixon and Lincoln schools are being combined for "colored" children, the seventh and eighth grades will go to the new junior high school, August 1916.



Junior No. 1 is completed on time for start of the school year in September, 1916.

However, due to the Infantile Paralysis (Polio) Epidemic sweeping the country, children are quarantined at the height of the epidemic. The school and all the schools in Trenton open on October 30, 1916.



Auditorium



Library



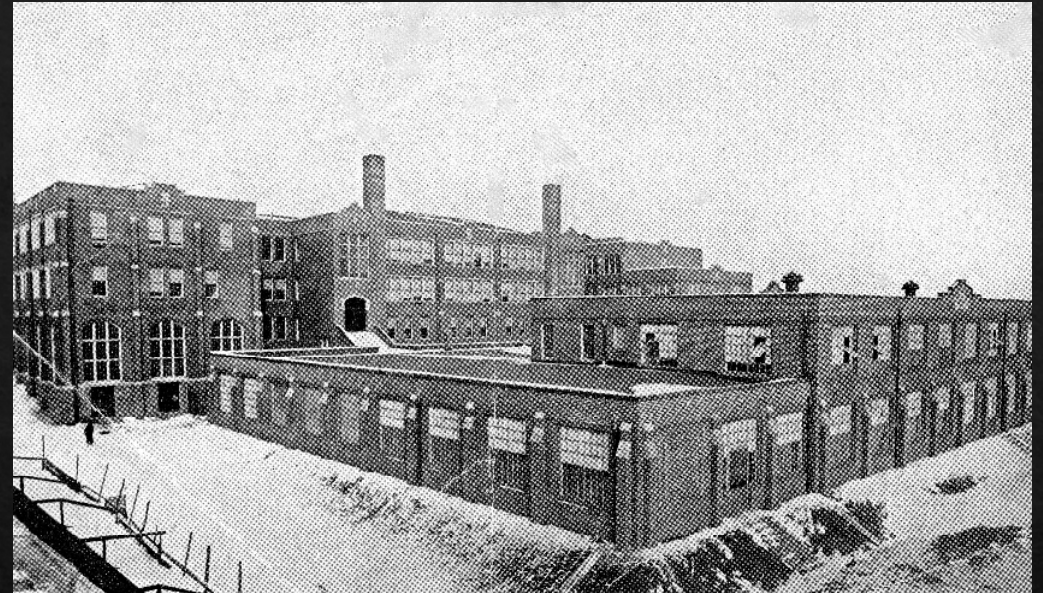
Manual Training



Domestic Science



Front of School (Auditorium)

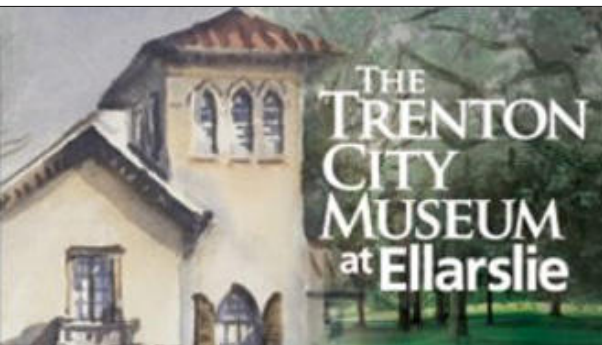


Rear of School (Shop Area)

The formal dedication of the school is delayed until December 7, 1917, with 3,000 people attending.

The school, the first junior high school in the east attracted the attention of educators, not only in NJ but in other states.

Several excellent musical numbers were played by Edward A. Mueller, son of Herman C. Mueller and an organist at the State Street Methodist Church, upon the pipe organ recently installed in the auditorium.



ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

Junior High School Movement

January 7, 2021 at 7pm

**The Junior High School Movement and the
building of Trenton's other junior high school**

Presented by David Bosted, Pat Allen & Karl Flesch

