

Town of Vienna

Office of the Town Clerk

127 Center Street S Vienna, VA 22180

703-255-6303

Application for Registration of Historic Structure, Site or Place by the Town of Vienna.

Return one (1) copy of the completed form and attachments to the Office of the Town Clerk.

Name of Owner(s) of structure, site or place:

Louise Archer Elementary School, Principal Michelle Makrigiorgos

Address of Owner(s): 324 Nutley Street NW, Vienna, VA 22180

Telephone Number of Owner(s): Daytime: 703-937-6200

E-Mail of Owner(s): mgmakrigiorg@fcps.edu

Location of structure, site or place for which you seek historic designation: 324 Nutley Street, NW, Vienna, VA 22180

Please detail below all pertinent information that you can give about the structure, site or place, including significant dates in the history of the structure, site or place, the identity of events or people of substantial historic interest with which the structure, site or place has been associated and any other facts that you may feel appropriate to the application: (Use additional paper if necessary.)

Louise Archer Elementary School, named for its first principal, was built in 1939. Our school began with three educators, Louise Archer, Mabel Mack, and Channie Henderson, and their desire to provide the best education to all students. Today, there are about 600 students and 65 educators and staff members continuing the dreams and goals which were created over 80 years ago. The students, staff, and community share enormous pride in the school's rich history and its warm, friendly, community atmosphere.

Louise Archer Elementary School opened in September 1939, with only three classrooms and it went by a different name—the Vienna Colored School. When Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was founded in 1870, Virginia law required localities to operate separate public schools for white and African American children. The Vienna Colored School was the Town of Vienna's public school for African American children. Prior to the start of the 1939-40 school year, African American children living in Vienna attended a schoolhouse located at the intersection of Lawyers Road and Malcolm Road.

In January 1947, the Fairfax County School Board began planning the first addition to the Vienna Colored School. The initial plans called for a two-room frame addition with toilets, running water, and a central heating plant. In July 1947, the School Board changed course and directed the architecture firm of Dixon & Norman to draw plans for a masonry addition to the

school. Construction began in November 1947, and was completed one year later.

Sadly, Principal Louise Archer did not live to see the completion of the new building. She passed away on April 1, 1948. On April 21, 1948, the FCPS School Board was presented with a petition requesting the School Board rename the Vienna Colored School in memory of Mrs. Archer. A motion to that effect was put forward, seconded, and carried, and the school thereafter became known as the Louise Archer School.

On August 26, 1948, B. Oswald Robinson, began his term as the principal of Louise Archer Elementary School for 22 years. During his time as principal, enrollment in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) increased from 12,118 in June 1949 to 133,362 in September 1970.

On March 4, 1952, the Fairfax County School Board awarded the construction contract for a second addition to Louise Archer Elementary School to Whitener and Skillman, Inc., in the amount of \$77,710. The school was expanded to seven classrooms, and a clinic, library, and office were added.

In the mid-late 1950's the third and fourth additions allowed for the building of 6 more classrooms, in addition to an activity room. While the US Supreme Court ruled in May 1954 in Brown v. Board of Education that public schools must be desegregated, in September 1954 Fairfax County opened its first and only, all African American high school, Luther Jackson. And in 1958, Louise Archer began sending its seventh graders to Luther Jackson, reducing its student body to grades 1-6. Through the late 1950s, there was much resistance to this desegregation. It was finally struck down in federal court in 1960 with the integration of public schools and the closing of the all-African American schools in 1960.

Of the six all-African American elementary schools in Fairfax County at the time of desegregation, only Louise Archer integrated and remained in operation as an elementary school. Students and faculty were reassigned to other schools throughout Fairfax.

In February 1971, construction began on the fifth addition to the school, which included a gymnasium, science lab, a new library, and a new classroom wing, which is known by the LAES community as the "pod." The addition increased the pupil-capacity of the school to 540 children, and created an enclosed courtyard at the center of the building. This population increase allowed for student growth by 120 in September 1971, when these students were reassigned from Flint Hill Elementary to alleviate overcrowding. Prior to this, the LAES population was comprised of 71 African-American children and 290 white children.

While there were a number of shorter-term principals in the years after Principal Robinson's resignation in 1969, the appointment of Principal Judy Ramig-Azzara in May 1976 began a new era at Louise Archer. Principal Azzara coined the term "The Sun Always Shines at Louise Archer School" which later became the school motto. Principal Azzara served as principal for 24 years.

Louise Archer had an addition of a modular classroom after 2000, but there haven't been many notable changes since then.

Please attach copies of any documents that you may have that relate to the historic

significance of the structure, site or place. (Note: DO NOT ATTACH ANY ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.)

Please attach a recent photograph of the structure, site or place.

Please provide a sketch or the plat showing where the structure sits on the property.

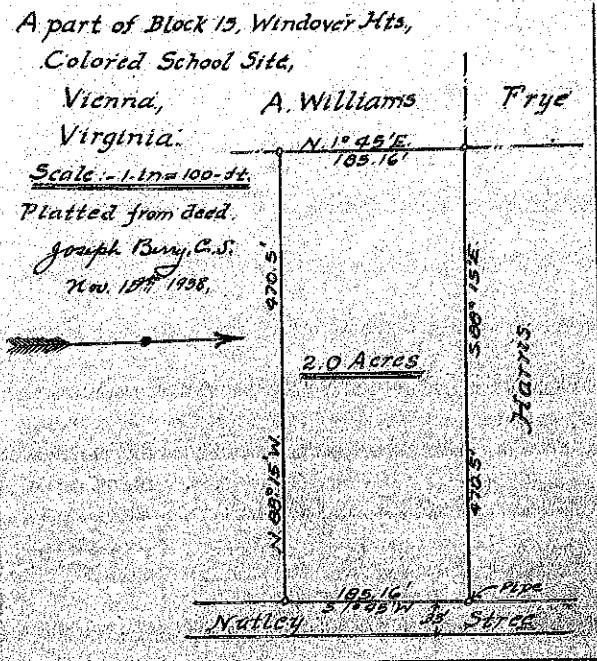
Please sign and date your application below:

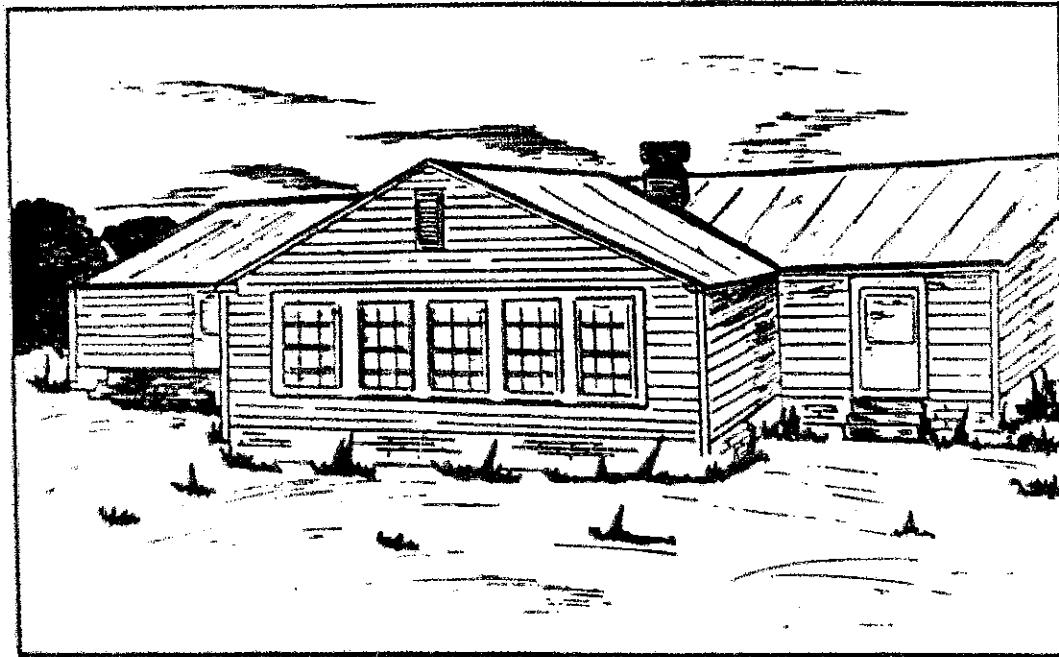
Michael Mahayorajah

(Owner)

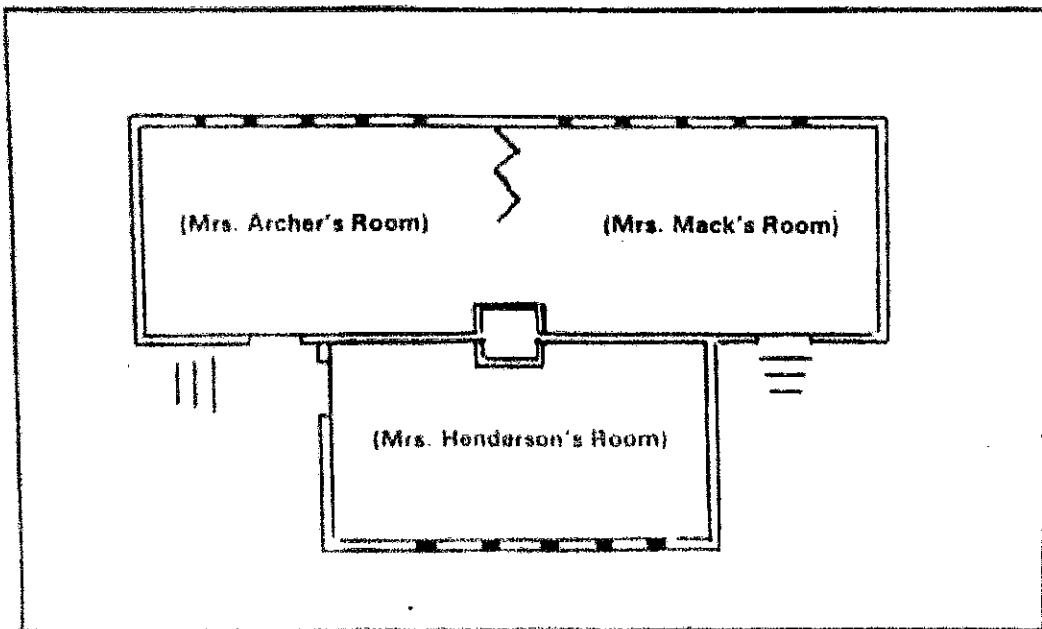
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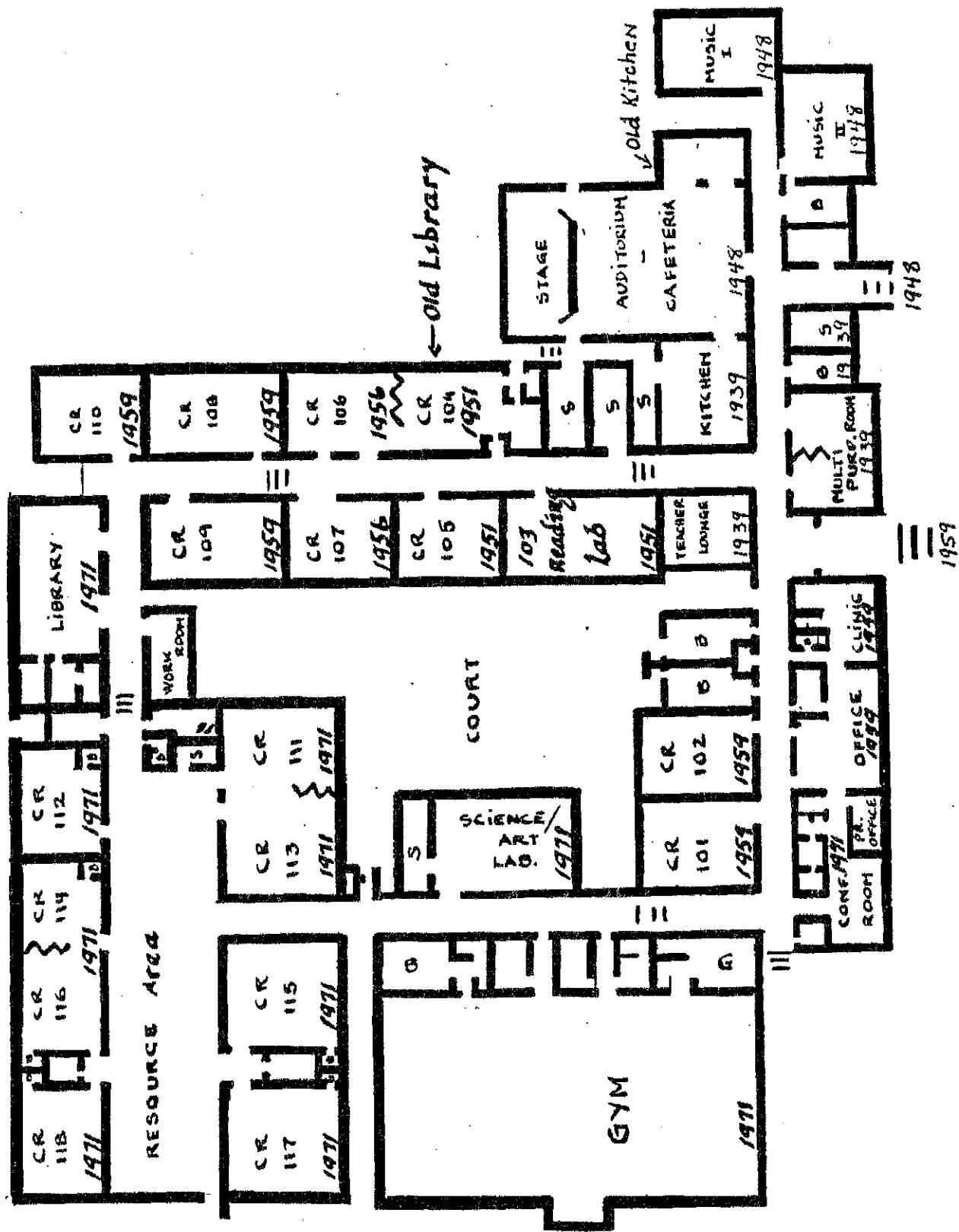




SCHOOL BUILT ON NUTLEY ST. IN 1939







Note of additions