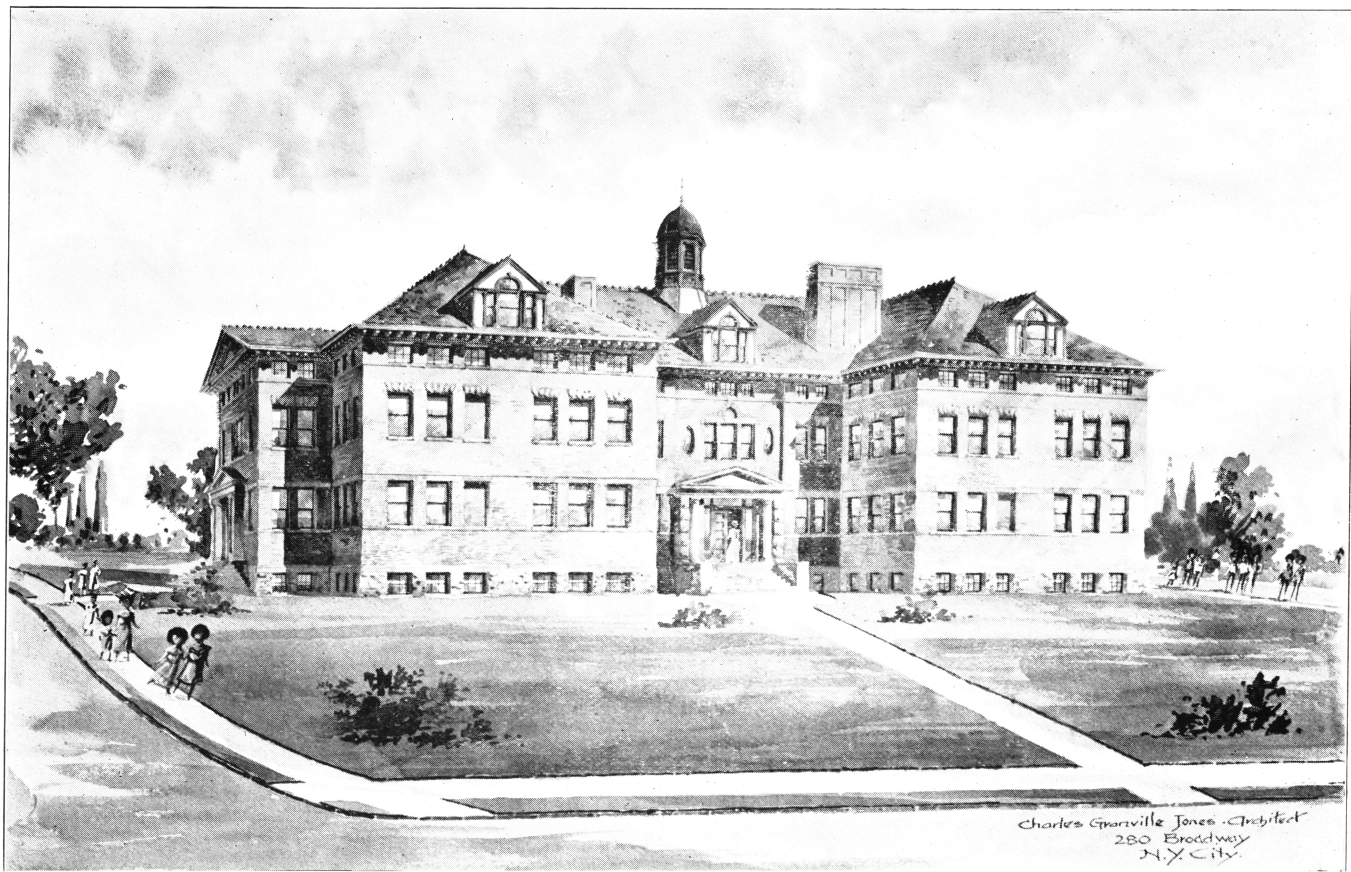


STATEMENT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY.



MAY TWELFTH,  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIVE.



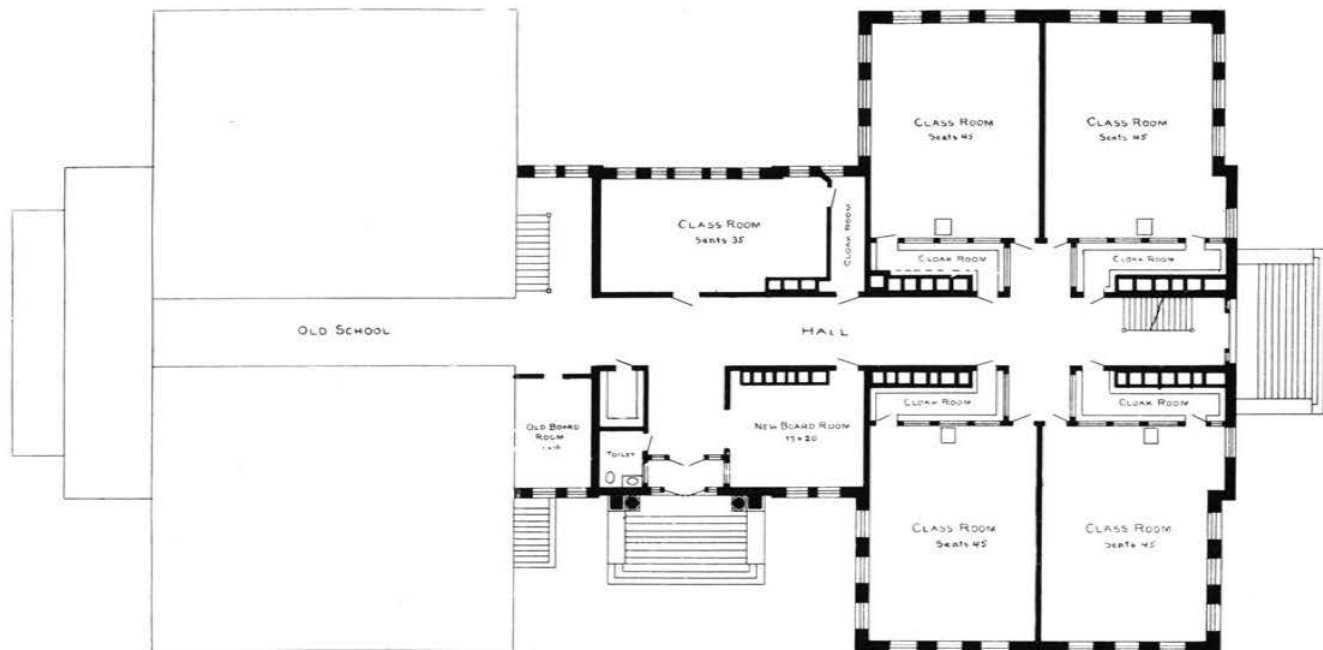
PARK SCHOOL WITH PROPOSED ADDITION.

STATEMENT  
OF THE  
Board of Education

Hutley, New Jersey



MAY TWELFTH  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIVE

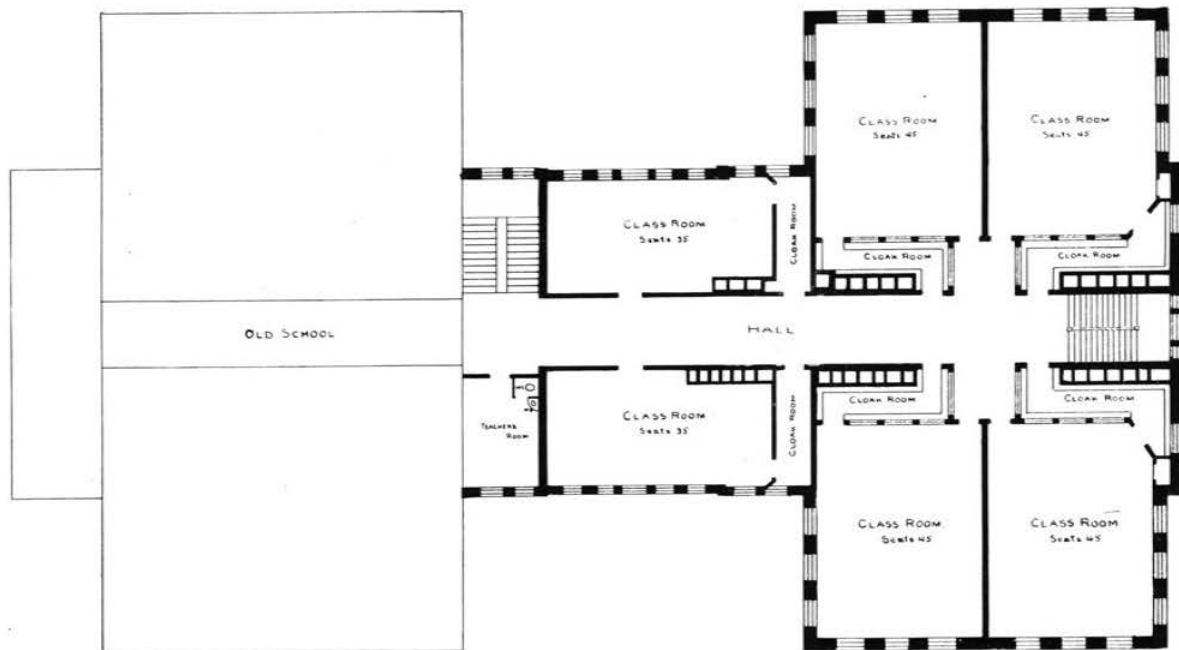


FIRST STORY PLAN  
 EXTENSION TO PARK SCHOOL,  
 NUTLEY, N. J.

NO. OF PUPILS: 1ST STORY: 215

CHARLES G. JONES  
 ARCHITECT  
 280 BROADWAY NEW YORK

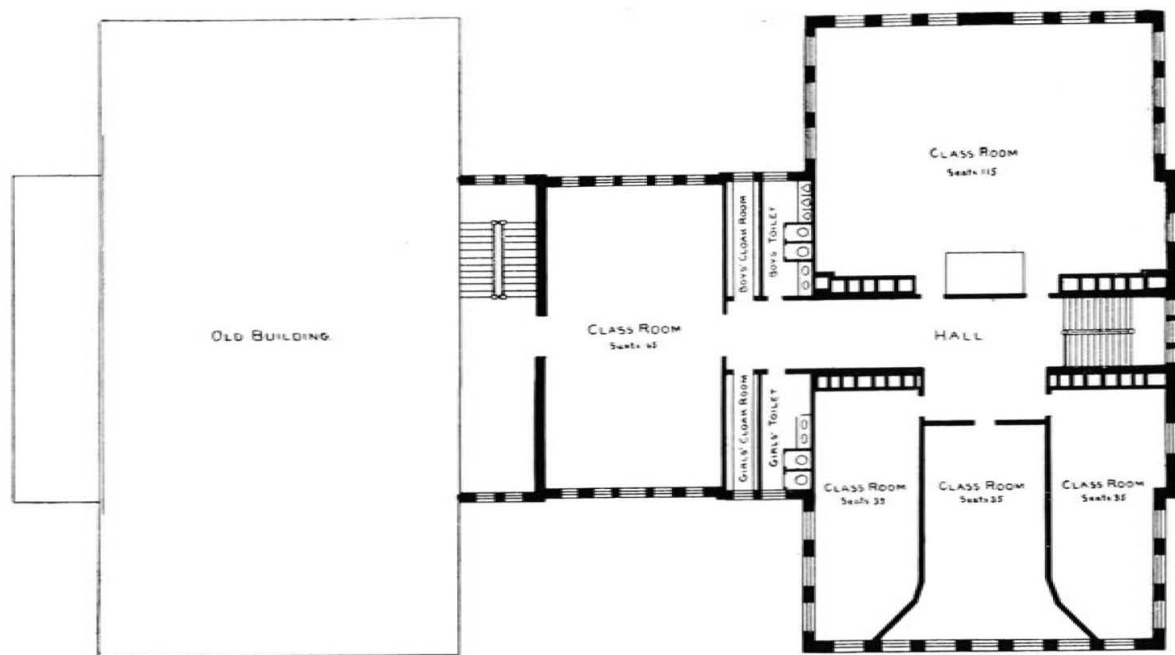




SECOND STORY PLAN  
EXTENSION TO PARK SCHOOL  
NUTLEY, N. J.

NO. OF PUPILS 20 STORY 250

CHARLES G. JONES  
ARCHITECT  
280 BROADWAY, NEW YORK



THIRD STORY PLAN.  
EXTENSION TO PARK SCHOOL,  
NUTLEY, N. J.

NO. OF PUPILS 30. STAIRS, 235'

CHARLES G. JONES,  
ARCHITECT,  
280 BROADWAY NEW YORK.

# Board of Education

1904-1905

## OFFICERS.

GEORGE B. PHILHOWER, M. D.....	<i>President</i>
HENRY W. GOODRICH.....	<i>Vice President</i>
ALBERT B. MEREDITH.....	<i>District Clerk</i>

## MEMBERS.

	Term Expires.
ARTHUR STAGER.....	1906
WILLIAM H. ARNOLD.....	1906
CHARLES W. LICHTENSTERN.....	1906
GEORGE B. PHILHOWER, M. D.....	1907
THOMAS J. O'NEIL.....	1907
WILLIAM F. DITTIG.....	1907
HENRY W. GOODRICH.....	1908
RICHARD W. BOOTH.....	1908
FRANK T. SHEPARD.....	1908

*To the Citizens of Nutley:*

At the annual school meeting held March 21st, the citizens were asked to vote upon a proposition to provide additional accommodation for school children, by the erection of an addition to the Park School. The plan then presented was the result of careful consideration by the Board of Education and represented the views of a majority of the Board. The citizens defeated the measure. Nevertheless, the Board, believing that its plan was right and that the citizens did not fully understand it, has determined to present the matter a second time for further consideration and to urge the adoption of the following resolution:

*"Resolved*, That the Board of Education of the School District of the Town of Nutley, in the County of Essex, be hereby authorized to borrow money in the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and to issue therefor bonds of the School District of the Town of Nutley, in the corporate name of the District, in denominations of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) each, payable in forty years, with interest at the rate of four per cent. (4 per cent.) per annum for the purpose of making additions to the Park School."

The Board has made such change in the plans first presented that two thousand dollars more will be needed than asked for at the March meeting, at the same time greatly increasing the capacity of the building. The character of the changes is discussed later in this statement.

I.

THE NEEDS OF ADDITIONAL ROOM.

Citizens of the town, who have been residents here for ten years or more, will remember that the two fine school houses which the town possesses are both of recent erection. The Park School was completed and opened for school work in 1894. The Yantacaw School was completed and opened for pupils in 1902. As early as 1892 the demand for more and better accommodations and the realization of the inadequacy of the old building were so strong that the citizens authorized the building of the Park School. The pressure for accommodations was so great



that eight years later, when the Yantacaw School was built, both schools were full, and half-day classes were again necessary to accommodate the children. In the three years since the completion of the Yantacaw School the need for more class room has been greater and greater; and so strong was it during the past year that the Board was compelled to use, for parts of the third and seventh grades, rooms that are not adapted for school purposes and should not be tolerated except as make-shifts.

The demand for increased accommodation is a sign of the healthy growth of the town. The number of pupils of school age enrolled in 1894 was 322; in 1899, 662, an increase of more than one hundred per cent.; in 1904 it was 883, an increase of nearly two hundred per cent. over the enrollment of 1894. Meanwhile the accommodation has been increased since 1894 only one hundred per cent. According to the usual calculation, that the population of a town is five times as great as the number of pupils enrolled in its public schools, it may safely be said that the population of the town since 1894 has nearly trebled.

These figures show the urgent need of additional school room. All of the schools are crowded, and two at least, the Avondale School house and the Park Hall School, are so ill adapted for school purposes that discontinuance of them is imperative. It is not contemplated to condemn wholly the use of the Passaic Avenue School but to retain it for kindergarten and lower primary purposes, after certain alterations and improvements shall have been made. Its use for the higher grades it no longer possible.

## II.

### NUTLEY COMPARED WITH NEIGHBORING TOWNS.

That the school district is abundantly able to provide the additional accommodations is shown by the increased valuation of the real and personal property of the town subject to taxation. The valuations have increased from about \$800,000 in 1894 to nearly \$1,700,000 in 1904.

Nutley does not expend as much on its schools as other towns in this vicinity. The yearly cost for educating each pupil throughout the State, the only true basis of comparison, is \$18.26.

and this includes cities, towns and rural districts. Hence the cost for the whole State is somewhat lower than the cost prevailing in towns situated like Nutley. The cost at Montclair is \$42.26 per pupil per year; Bloomfield, \$28.49; Plainfield, \$28.61; Englewood, \$32.38; East Orange, \$25.57; while the cost at Nutley in 1904 was \$21.64. Nutley, therefore, has a lower *per capita* cost than any of the school districts with which it might well be compared, and is only about one-half of what Montclair is spending.

The better the schools a suburban town is able to maintain the more prosperous the town will become, both in the increase in the population and valuation, and in the character of the people who come there to live. No more striking instance of this condition can be found than in the neighboring town of Montclair, whose school statistics have already been given, and whose schools are famous throughout the State; they have attracted an intelligent suburban population and have led to a great increase in the prosperity of the town. Montclair has been lavish not only in the amount it has given for school buildings, but in the salaries it pays its teachers; the result has fully justified what may have seemed extravagance.

### III.

#### THE REASONS FOR THE CHOICE OF THE PARK SCHOOL SITE.

The plan to add to the present Park School is the result of long and careful deliberation in the Board of Education. Two plans were suggested; first, adding to the Park School, or second, building a new school house in the Avondale section on property east of the present Passaic Avenue School, a plan which at first commended itself to a majority of the Board; but subsequent and more careful consideration resulted in the adoption of the first plan, and the reasons for its selection are as follows:

1st. The town owns the site of the Park School and the property needed for its enlargement; it would have to pay at least \$3,500 for an Avondale site.

2nd. The recent and the prospective development of the town is for the most part west and northwest of the Park School. A careful canvass of the residences of the children attending the

Avondale School shows that if the kindergarten and first grade were retained in the Passaic Avenue School house, very few of the pupils of the higher grades who would come to a new school house would be incommoded by having to come to the Park School; furthermore, of the pupils who would be transferred from the Yantacaw School in order to make room for the constantly increasing number of pupils in the northwest section of the town, the greater number would find the Park School more convenient than a school house situated further south. The Park School is almost the geographical center of the town, while the center of population is considerably to the north and west of this point.

3rd. The schools can be better managed by increasing their size. If a separate new school were built it would require another principal at about the same salary as that paid to the present principals; while by putting all of the children under one roof, a greater economy can be effected. Moreover, the work of supervision can be more immediately and directly controlled by having as many children as possible under one roof. Furthermore, a better gradation of pupils can be made by having an opportunity for more divisions of the same grades, consequent upon the increased number of children in one school.

One of the general criticisms directed against the Public School System is its seeming neglect of the individual pupil. It is often thoughtlessly stated that pupils are dealt with in masses and that only those of sufficient mental and physical vitality can stand the strain of mass movement. This is another way of saying that pupils move from grade to grade as companies, and that somehow the single pupil with his individual differences of taste and capacity is neglected.

A careful examination of the situation reveals the fact that this condition appears when too many pupils are crowded into one room, and when for convenience in handling, all the pupils are divided into two groups. To break the so-called "lock-step" there must be a chance for frequent regrouping of pupils in accordance with their attainments and capabilities. To try to fit all pupils of a given grade into either of two divisions, or to treat a class as a whole, is an injustice to those who can move faster and a source of discouragement to those whose progress is more deliberate. To obviate these difficulties wherever possible there should be several

divisions of the same grade with groups of pupils but a few weeks or months in advance of each other.

As our schools are now graded, because of geographical limitations we have but a single room of one grade to a building, and all pupils of this grade have to be grouped in either of two divisions, since a multiplicity of divisions is not practicable. Were it possible to have two, three or four rooms of the same grade we could then arrange within a single building for four, six, or eight divisions, making thereby a better system of grading and making sure that pupils who should be grouped together are together.

Very often it happens that pupils of the higher group through protracted absence find upon their return that the division in which they were placed has advanced considerably beyond them, and that the lower division has not quite reached the point at which the pupil then is. With several divisions and a closer gradation this pupil would more readily find his position, and the fact of his absence, while serious, would not be so great a source of discouragement. With all the grammar grades grouped in a single building there would therefore, result a better adaptation of the work of the school to the individual pupil by giving him a better opportunity to find that division in which he could work to the best advantage. It would then follow that by taking the higher grades from the other buildings there would be a better chance for the expansion of the lower grades with the same advantage which would come to the higher grades. Thus in providing for better grading of the grammar school we would be, at the same time, providing larger opportunities for the primary pupils.

4th. The Board of Education has recently decided to lengthen the advanced school course from three years to four years. Nutley is the only town in Essex County which has a high school course of but three years. The Board has been able to lengthen this course to four years, with practically no increase of expense to the town. In order to accomplish the best work in the advanced grades, an end which the Board of Education is striving to reach, it is necessary to make special arrangements of class rooms, recitation rooms and laboratories. The advanced grades, of course, should be at the Park School, which, however, in its present condition is not fitted for this work; for the most effective work, there should be a single large room in which the pupils may



have their desks, and in which no recitations should take place, the room being reserved for study; while recitations should be conducted in rooms smaller than the usual grade class room. If a separate new school were built considerable remodelling would have to be done in the Park School in order to render the work of the advanced grades economical and efficient.

#### IV.

##### THE PROPOSED PLAN.

The Board of Education had prepared plans, submitted to the March meeting, which contemplated the use of the second floor for the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth grades generally known as the high school. These plans have been changed and the new plans, reproductions of which precede this statement, contemplate five classrooms on the first floor, in addition to a new Board room; six class rooms on the second floor, and five class rooms on the third floor. The capacity of these floors, calculated according to the State law for the maximum number of pupils for a certain cubic capacity of the rooms, is as follows:

On the first floor, 215; on the second floor, 250; on the third floor, 285, making a total of 750.

At the March meeting there seemed to be in the minds of the citizens a feeling that this large and costly addition to the Park School was mainly for the accommodation of the four upper grades. Such a belief was a mistake, but at the same time the Board is satisfied that a better result for about the same amount of money can be obtained by putting the four upper grades on the third floor of the building, using the first and second floors for the lower grades. That the plan is entirely feasible there can be no doubt. Although the windows of the third floor are somewhat smaller, abundant and superior light may be obtained from overhead lights, a method of lighting which the authorities on school buildings believe to be entirely satisfactory, and which architects are glad to be able to obtain for their difficult and trying work of drafting. Toilet accommodations are provided on this floor so that the children are not under the necessity of going to the basement.

It is estimated that it would cost to duplicate the Yantacaw School at Avondale, about forty thousand dollars. By so doing accommodations would be obtained for 360 children, the capacity of the present Yantacaw School; but if a school house were built in the Avondale section the present Avondale School, with its accommodation for 100 children, would necessarily be abandoned, leaving 260 as the net gain in accommodation by the expenditure of \$40,000, or in other words, nearly \$154 per pupil; while by building the proposed addition to the Park School at an expense of \$50,000 accommodation for 750 additional pupils is made at an expense of a little less than \$67 per pupil. Looking at the matter from the standpoint of economy it would cost probably two and a half ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ ) times as much per pupil to build the Avondale School as to add to the Park School. By building the addition to the Park School the total capacity of all the school buildings of the town is 1670 distributed as follows: Park School, 1110; Yantacaw School, 360; Church Street School, 100; Passaic Avenue School, 100. While if the Yantacaw School were duplicated on a site in Avondale the capacity of all the schools would be 1180, distributed as follows: Park School, Avondale School, Yantacaw School, each, 360; Church Street School 100; total only 1180; thus, for the extra \$10,000 nearly five hundred more children can be accommodated.

Furthermore, if the Avondale School were built it would so quickly be filled that another building would be required within three or four years, while the addition to the Park School would provide accommodations adequate for the growth of the town, as shown above, for about ten years to come. For the present the capacity of the third floor in which the four upper grades are to be placed would not be fully used. As the plan of the third floor shows, the large room on the southeast corner of the addition could be used for the study room mentioned above, the other rooms being used for recitation rooms, a library and chemical and physical laboratories.

The Board of Education is planning for a great many years to come; its plan contemplates the ultimate use of the Park School for the grammar grades with the out-lying school houses in other parts of the town for the kindergartens and lower grades. The next of such out-lying school houses, in the opinion of the present

Board, should probably be erected in Avondale and that would be followed in turn by new school houses for the lower grades in other sections of the town as their respective growths demanded.

The plan, as submitted by the architect, shows a dignified and imposing building. It is kept in harmony with the present building, and the Board believes the new structure will be one of the handsomest school houses in the county.

A careful estimate of the probable cost has led the Board to ask for the sum of fifty thousand dollars. The Board has made the estimate large enough to cover good and substantial construction, but it is in hope that all this money may not be required. It is, however, unwilling to ask for any less amount, believing it better financial policy to have on hand at the completion of the work, unexpended moneys than to be compelled to go to the people for a further appropriation.

In conclusion the Board puts itself emphatically upon record as asserting the imperative and immediate need of greatly increased accommodations. The town is growing rapidly and school accommodations must keep pace; at the same time the assessed valuation of town property justifies the expenditure of the sum of money asked of the citizens. We can not go along as we are. We must have new schools. If Nutley continues to increase in population as it has in the last ten years, it will need a new school house for about 300 to 350 new pupils every five years, unless the present plan is adopted. At present the increase in population in certain parts of the town demands, in the opinion of the Board, that to effect the best and most economical results the school house should be an addition to the present Park School building.