

JOHN W. CHORLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Middletown,  
New York,

Dedicated  
May 18, 1969

## FOREWORD

The unusual design of the John W. Chorley School has aroused the enthusiasm of many while it has startled others.

The building's open spaces with operable walls facilitate the flexible grouping of children, and efforts to individualize instruction, that are characteristic of the school's program during this, its first year in operation.

While I was not here when the building was planned, I understand that one intention of its planners was to create a structure that would not quickly become dated; one that might accommodate not only all known instructional techniques but perhaps some not yet known.

The building is now ours. It will serve the District for a generation or longer, and will have cost the citizens of the community a substantial sum as its bonds are paid off over the years. Let us hope that forty years hence people will be commenting favorably on the foresight of this community during the '60's.

JOHN L. KRAUSE  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK

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*Brochure designed by* Penelope S. Chachis, Principal,  
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and Robert C. Walther, Director, Federally Aided Programs.  
*Photos by* Aage Jorgensen and Henry W. Hogue.



JOHN W. CHORLEY  
(1888-1954)

Directly or indirectly, students at Middletown High School during the period from 1925 to 1953, and their parents, felt the influence of John W. Chorley, teacher, coach, vice principal, summer and adult school principal, counselor and friend.

Mr. Chorley knew no division between theory and practice, between precept and example, between the behavior he expected of others and the way he conducted himself.

Whether he was teaching, coaching, counseling, or dealing with a violator of school regulations, Mr. Chorley's guiding principle was the Golden Rule. He respected the worth of every human being, whether of high or low station, able or limited, obedient or fractious. His extended work with Boy Scouts and YMCA represented a further giving of self because of his love for his fellow man.

In recognition of this modest gentleman's rare qualities, the Board of Education has designated its newest school the John W. Chorley Elementary School.

## THE BUILDING

John W. Chorley Elementary School was designed with an eye to the educational program it was intended to house. While adaptable to any known type of elementary school program, the building is especially well-suited for the continuous progress plan which has been developing in Middletown's elementary schools since 1964.

The continuous progress plan abolishes grade levels, since the graded school organization is based on the incorrect premise that all children can learn at the same pace and that this pace remains constant year after year. Instead, standards in basic skill areas are set for each child in relation to his own potential, and instruction is geared to these standards. The average learner tends to proceed at a pace comparable to that of the graded school; superior learners advance more rapidly, and below average learners less rapidly. A child may advance at differing paces in different subject fields.

In the Chorley School, the flexible grouping that is characteristic of non-graded programs is combined with cooperative team-teaching. There are three wings for general education — Primary I, for children whose ages parallel those of children in Kindergarten through second grade; Primary II, paralleling grades three and four and Intermediate, paralleling grades five and six. In each wing, spaces which correspond to pairs of conventional classrooms (with traffic areas between them) march gradually up the gentle natural slope of the site.

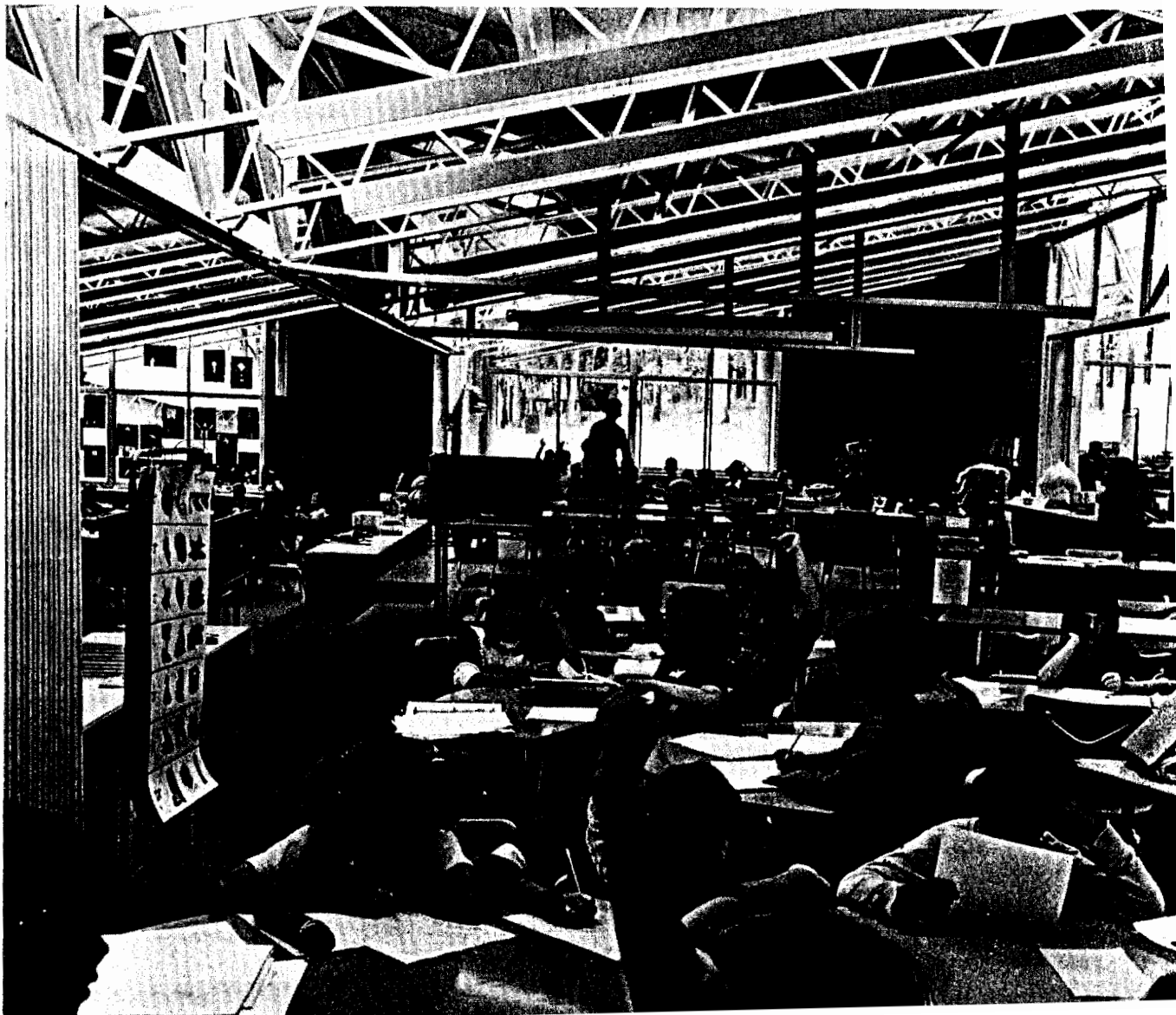
Operable walls in each of these wings make possible a variety of space arrangements: individual classrooms, or combinations of two, three, four, five, six, seven or eight classroom spaces. When all operable walls are open, the entire wing is a single large room. Sight-lines are such as to permit large group instruction of the entire population of the wing when and if desired.

In each wing, approximately two hundred children, eight teachers, and an instructional leader make up a teaching-learning team. Instructional group size varies with the objectives and methods of the lesson. Children and teachers move freely as groups are formed for various instructional purposes. The extreme flexibility of space in each wing facilitates flexible grouping. The wing's teaching team plans jointly and divides instructional responsibilities in accordance with the diagnosed needs of the learners.

A fourth wing, built to house educable and trainable classes, has permanent walls between classrooms. A special feature of this wing is a fully equipped housekeeping unit which simulates a house or apartment. Use of this facility is shared with pupils of the other wings.

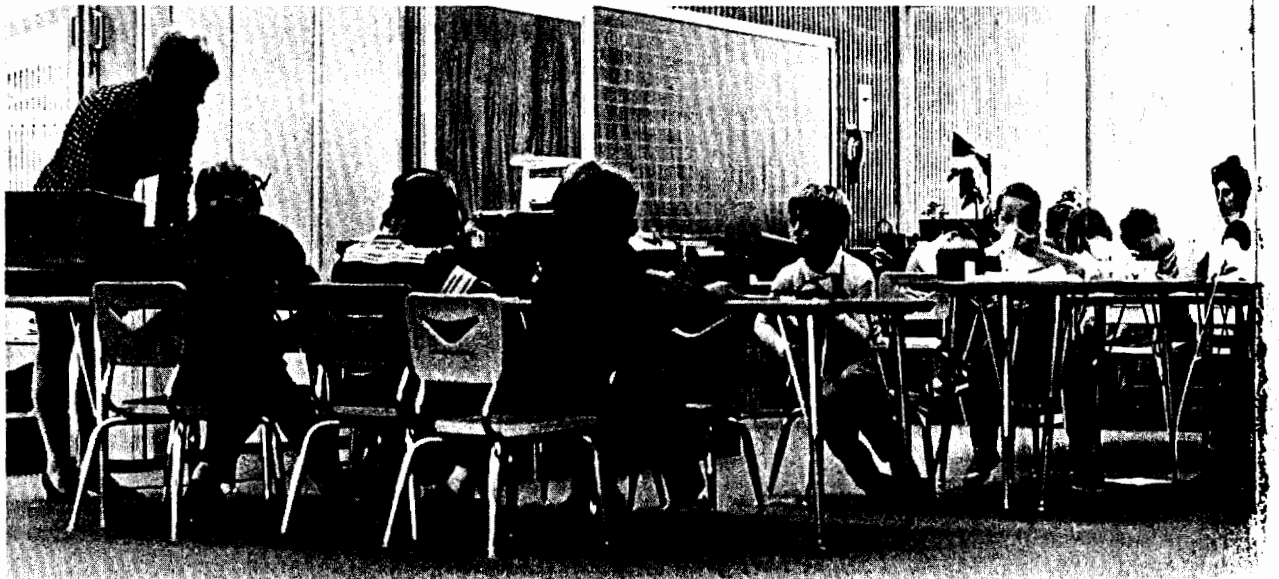
A covered walkway separates bus and service access road, and loading zone, from roads and parking area serving the general public.

Fluid  
Space





Personal  
Attention



Parent  
Volunteer



Listen,  
Look and  
Learn

## **Special Features**

Operable walls throughout the three general education wings.  
Independent study carrels with audiovisual equipment.

## **Facilities**

Capacity: 900

Instructional Spaces: 37

Four Main Wings: Primary 1, Primary 2, Intermediate and Special Education.

Each of the first three wings has a teachers' planning center above the instructional space. All instructional spaces have exterior entrances, with small, covered areas that can be used as extensions of the classroom in good weather.

Core Facilities: Two gymnasias, locker and shower rooms, adapted physical education room, music room, music practice rooms, learning adjustment classroom, instructional materials center, audiovisual room, administrative offices, medical-dental, guidance and speech correction rooms, "Great-Hall"-cafeteria, gas-oil combination heating plant, storage areas.

## **General Information:**

Size of site: 27 acres —

Square footage of building: 77,335 square feet —

Construction cost, after site acquisition, including furnishings and equipment — \$2,195,000. —

Three play areas —

Nature trails in wooded area (to be developed) —

**Paul Rudolph & Peter Barbone, Associated Architects**

**Warwick Construction Company, Inc., General Contractor**

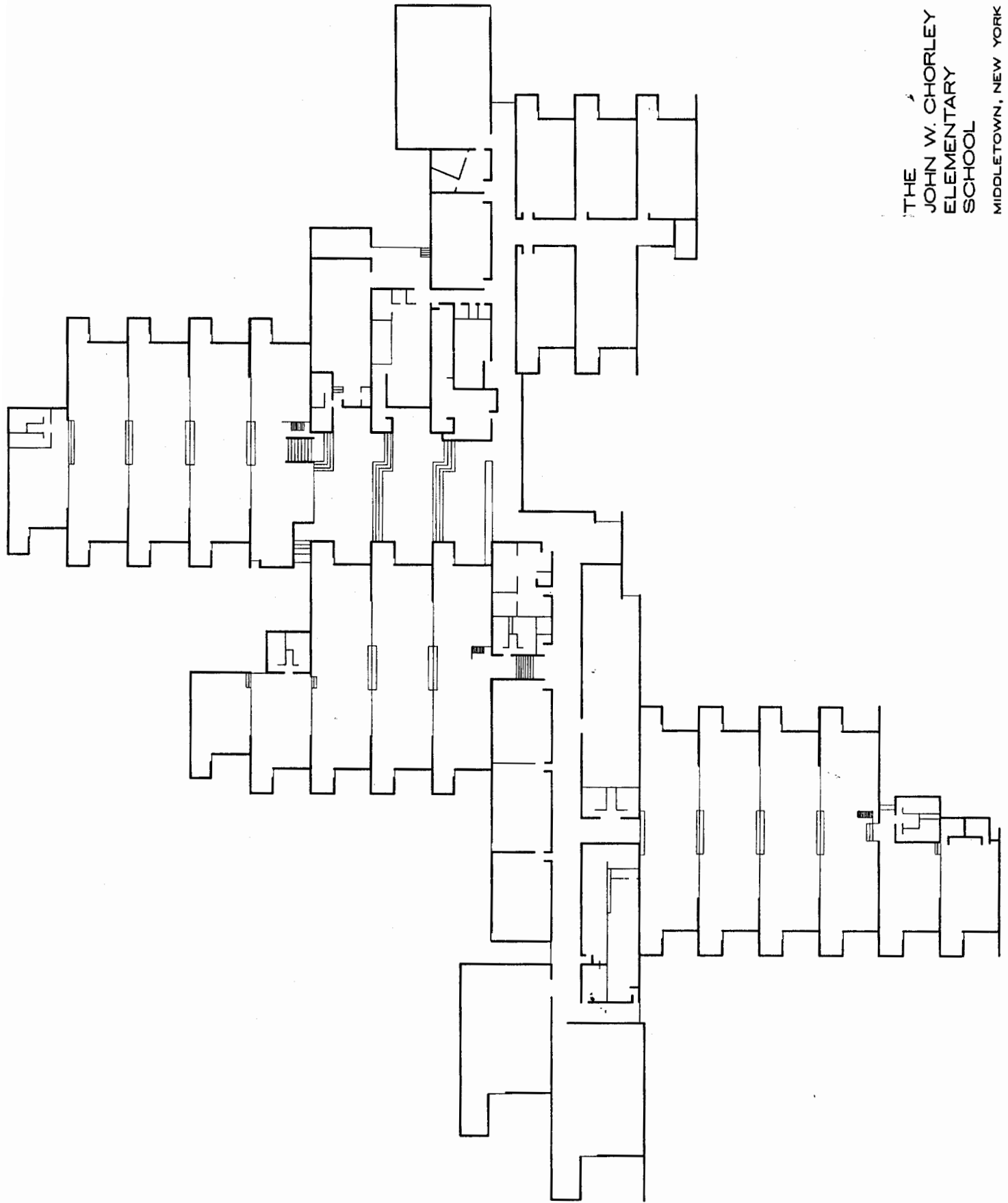
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