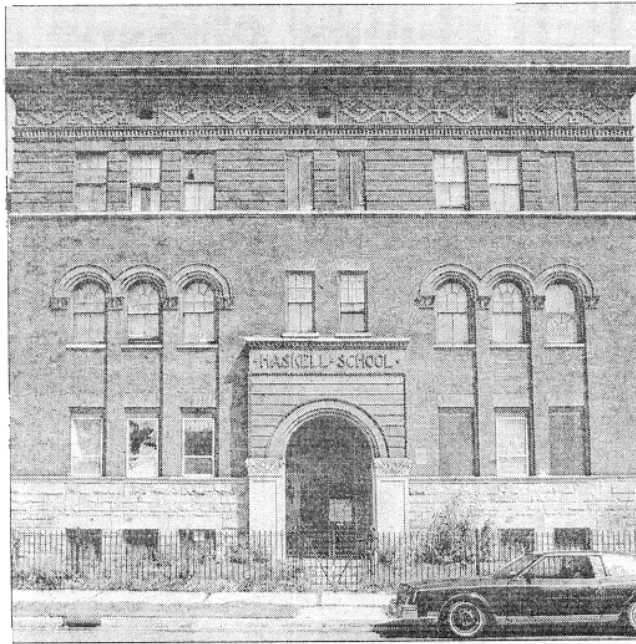


Local News

(
I
F
A
t
h
P
C
r



J.S. Carras — *The Record*
Former Haskell School at 150 6th Ave. in Lansingburgh.

Possible sale of school to be decided tonight

James V. Franco
The Record

TROY — The City Council will decide at tonight's meeting whether to sell the old Haskell School to Bi-Coastal Development for \$15,000 so the Boston-based company can convert the long-vacant structure into eight loft-style condominiums.

The city took ownership of the three-story brick structure when the last plans for the building, the Encore Charter School for the Performing Arts, fell through. The building at 150 Sixth Ave. was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

The new condominiums should be open by next spring, say Earl Mathews and Michael Schneider of Bi-Coastal.

In their proposal to the city, they say they will work with Joe Fama, executive director of the Troy Architecture Program, who has a long history of rehabilitating build-

Bi-Coastal Development seeks to purchase the school for \$15,000 and convert it into eight loft-style condominiums

ings in Troy, including the storied Rice Building.

They said they will finance the project through Troy-based Pioneer Savings Bank.

The plan is to have a site manager move to Troy to oversee the rehabilitation, which will start by completely gutting the building.

"As part of the project we were going to seek city funds to help in the cleanup, the public streets and whatever else they were able to help with," they wrote in their proposal. "A reduced purchase price would go a long way in helping in some of these areas. For this reason we are offering to purchase the Haskell School for \$15,000."