

B-3698

Public School #85

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 05-26-2011

E.O. 11593

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

B-3698

RECEIVED

Name of property: Public School # 85

Location: Baltimore

Request submitted by: HUD Thomas R. Hobbs

Date received: 11-10-82

Additional information received:

DEC 1 1982

State: MD

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:

☒ Eligible

☐ Not Eligible

☐ No Response

Comments:

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:

☒ Eligible

Applicable criteria: C

☐ Not Eligible

Comments:

36 CFR Part 63.3
Determination

☐ Documentation insufficient

(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)

Jay M. Sammons
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 11/22/82

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Public School 85

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Lakewood Avenue and Oliver Street ___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Pentecostal Housing Corp.

street & number 201 N. Washington Street telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber

street & number Calvert Street folio

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-3698

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

School No. 85 is located on the northwest corner of the block bounded by Oliver Street, Lakewood Avenue, Hoffman Street, and Kenhill Avenue. Also located on this block are a modern school building and the schoolyards.

The school building has three sections which intersect to form an "I" shaped plan. The base of the "I" is the main facade (north elevation) on the Oliver Street side of the block. The building has three stories above a raised basement. The exposed portion of the foundation is concrete. A slate-covered gabled roof covers each section of the structure. The brick walls, which are laid in Flemish bond, extend above the exterior gable-end walls forming parapets. A flat-capped exterior chimney is located at the northeast corner of the center section of the building. Two large metal vents are situated on the roof of the center section.

The identical north and south elevations are nine bays wide; the west elevation is thirteen bays wide; and the east elevation is thirteen bays wide on the second and third stories and fourteen bays wide on the first and basement stories. Only a few of the original 6/6 sash windows remain, as many of the window openings are boarded and a few basement-level openings are in-filled with masonry. The main entrances, which are centered on the north and south facades, have modern metal doors. The transom is boarded in the north entranceway, but the original wooden door frame and fourteen-pane transom remain in the south entranceway. This transom is covered with a heavy wire screen. The five entrance openings on the east elevation are boarded. Three of these doorways are located at the basement level, and two are situated in the center bays at a level midway between the basement and first story. Access from these two doorways to the schoolyard is provided by a concrete stoop and two concrete stairways.

The contrast between the red brick walls and the concrete decorative features is notable. A molded concrete water table surrounds the buildings above the raised basement story. The concrete quoins at each corner are flat below the water table and rusticated above the water table. The coping that caps the parapets is also concrete. Tabernacle frames ornamented with cable molding surround the entranceways on the north and south elevations. Each of the windows that occupy the bays directly above these centered entranceways are framed by a molded surround supported by two small consoles. Placed to provide light for the interior staircases, these windows appear to be between stories. All of the other windows have concrete sills and concrete heads which resemble stone flat arches with five radiating voussoirs. On each arch, the two outer voussoirs and the center voussoir are larger than the two voussoirs they flank. For those windows above the water table, not only are these voussoirs larger, but they also protrude slightly from the wall surface. The most ornamental features on the buildings are the concrete panels inset below the roofline on the north and south facades and on the exterior gable end walls. Each molded panel has a pair of garlands flanking a central cartouche. A wooden flagpole supported by

8. Significance

Survey No. B-3698

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☒ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1905-1906	
check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G	
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance:

School No. 85 is significant for its fine Georgian Revival design. The school, with its strictly-symmetrical fenestration, ornate concrete details, and massive size, is a visual landmark in the East Baltimore neighborhood it once served. The school operated as part of the City's public school system for nearly 60 years.

History and Support:

The former Fort Worthington Elementary School was built in the early 20th century as Public School No. 85. The massive size and the fine Georgian Revival design of the building provide a distinct contrast to the late 19th and early 20th century row houses that dominate the surrounding streetscapes.

This lot was at the city's edge when it was constructed in 1905-06 near the site of Fort Worthington, a Civil War encampment. The school was built to accommodate approximately 800 students at a cost of \$90,559.95. When completed, the basement had a sub-basement utility area, a book storage room, rest rooms, and rooms for workshop and cooking classes. Eight classrooms, each with a cloak-room, and a teachers' room were arranged around a corridor on each of the upper three floors. The school was opened in September, 1906.

Reports of the school commissioners indicate that this school was one of two built with the same design in 1905-06. The other, School No. 98, was constructed at Pulaski and Ramsay Streets in southwest Baltimore. It has been demolished.

In the early 20th century the neighborhood surrounding School No. 85 contained a large Catholic population. These residents often preferred to send their children to the local parochial school. Population shifts following WWII brought many new residents to the area who sought a public education for their children. Consequently, School No. 85 was overcrowded by the early 1960s with an enrollment of over two thousand students. Utility rooms were converted to classrooms, portable classrooms were set up on the schoolyard, and part-time school days were instituted to accommodate the increased number of pupils.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-3698

Annual Report of the Board of School Commissioners for 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907,
Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Maryland. July, 1897.

The Baltimore Sun

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

1	8
---	---

3	63	7	00
---	----	---	----

4	3	5	1	9	9	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone

Easting

Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone

Easting

Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kim Kimlin

organization Maryland Historical Trust

date 8/12/82

street & number 21 State Circle

telephone _____

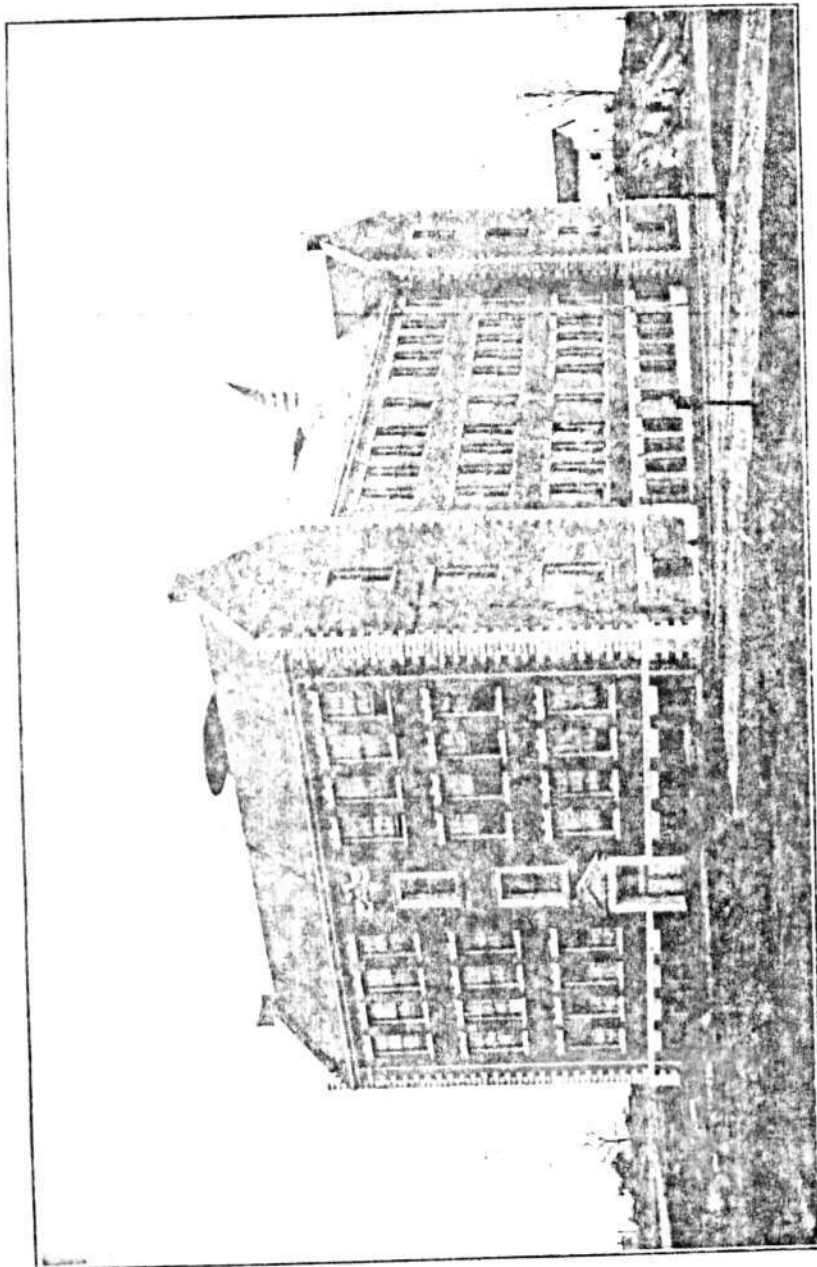
city or town Annapolis

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



SCHOOL No. 85, LAKEWOOD AVENUE AND OLIVER STREET

SEVENTY-EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

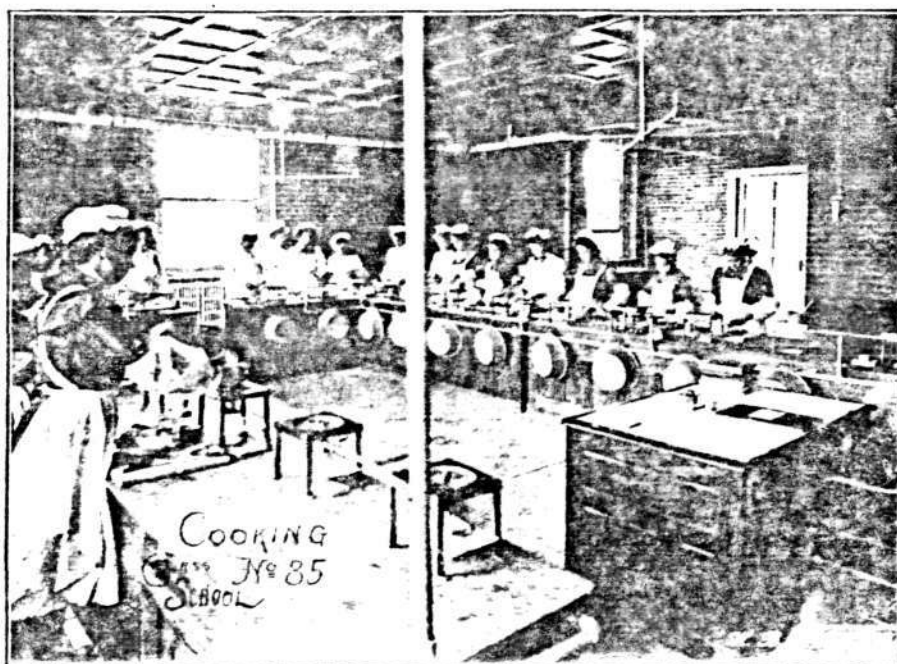
TO THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

FOR THE
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1906



BALTIMORE, MD.
WM. J. C. DULANY COMPANY
CITY PRINTERS.

1907.

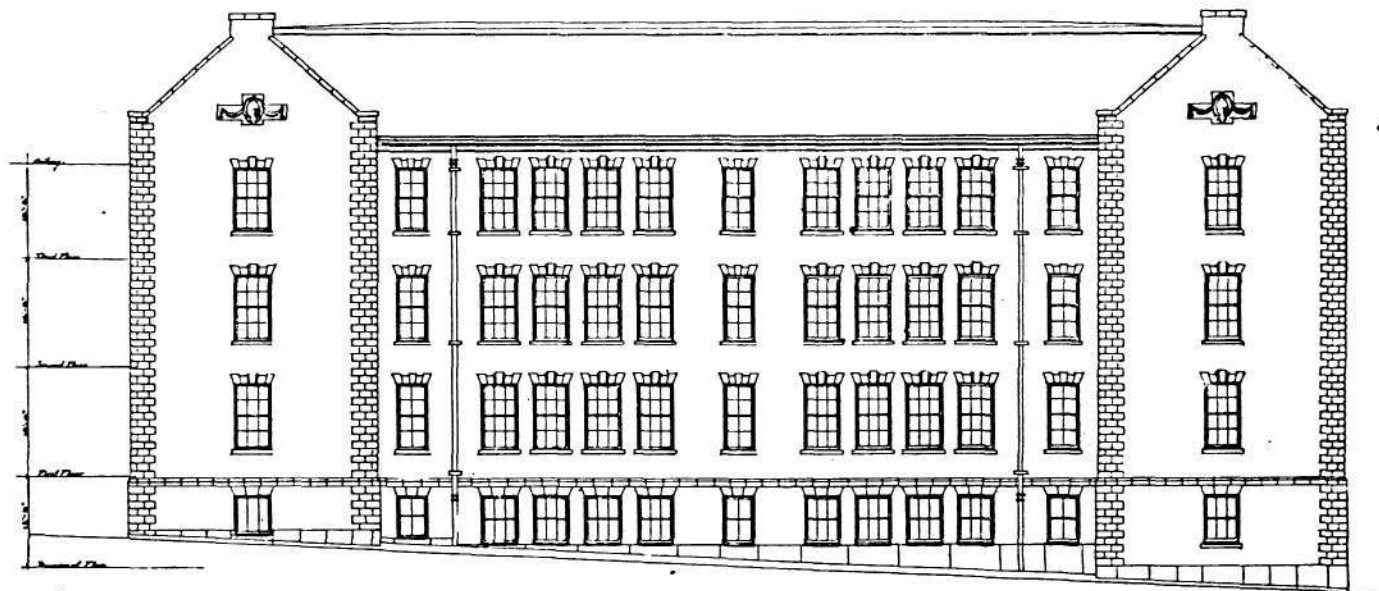


-PUBLIC-SCHOOL-BUILDINGS-
 *85-COR-LAKEWOOD-AVE-3-OLIVER-ST-
 *96-COR-RAMSAY-3-PULASKI-STB-

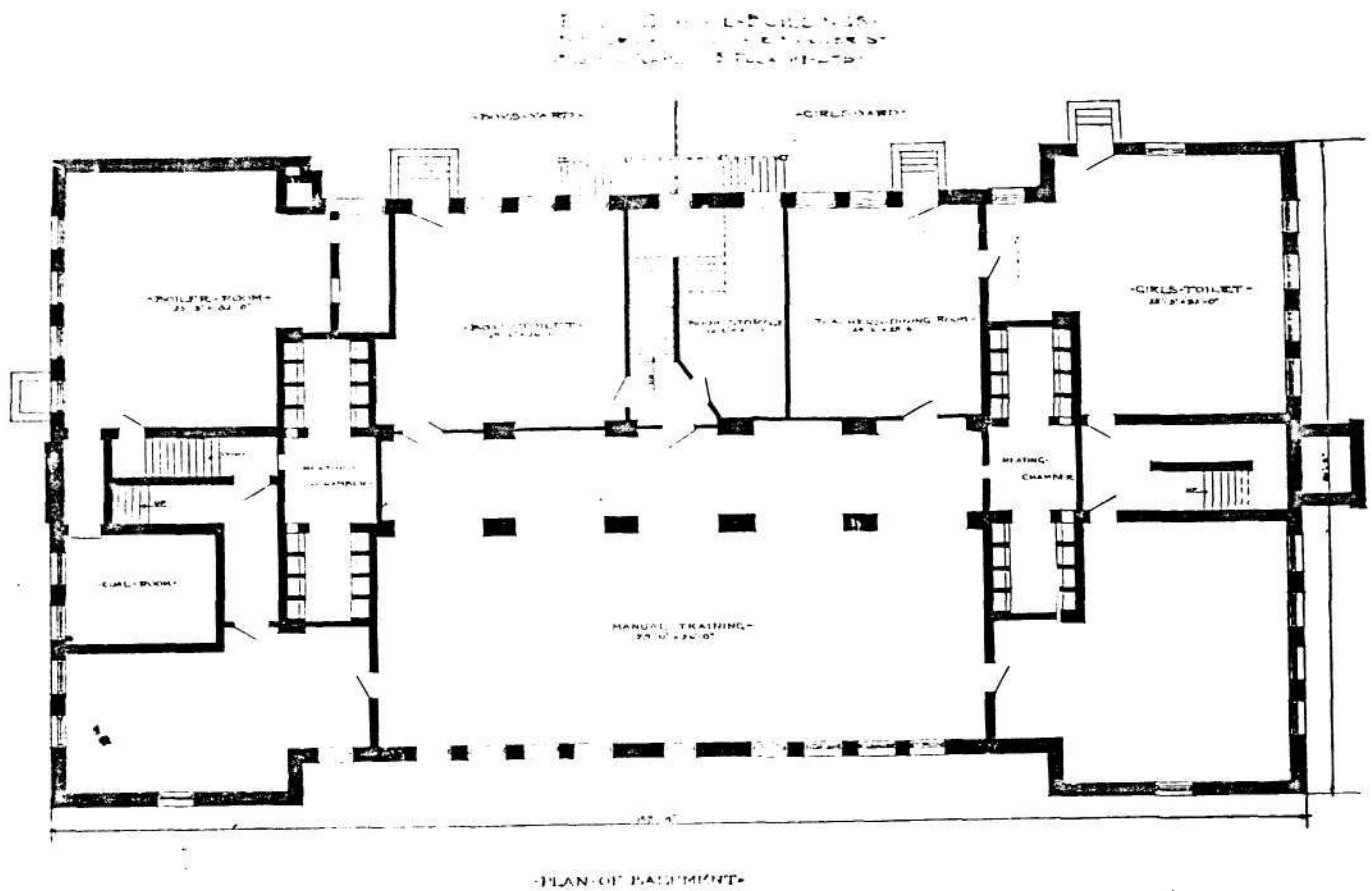


-REAR-ELEVATION-

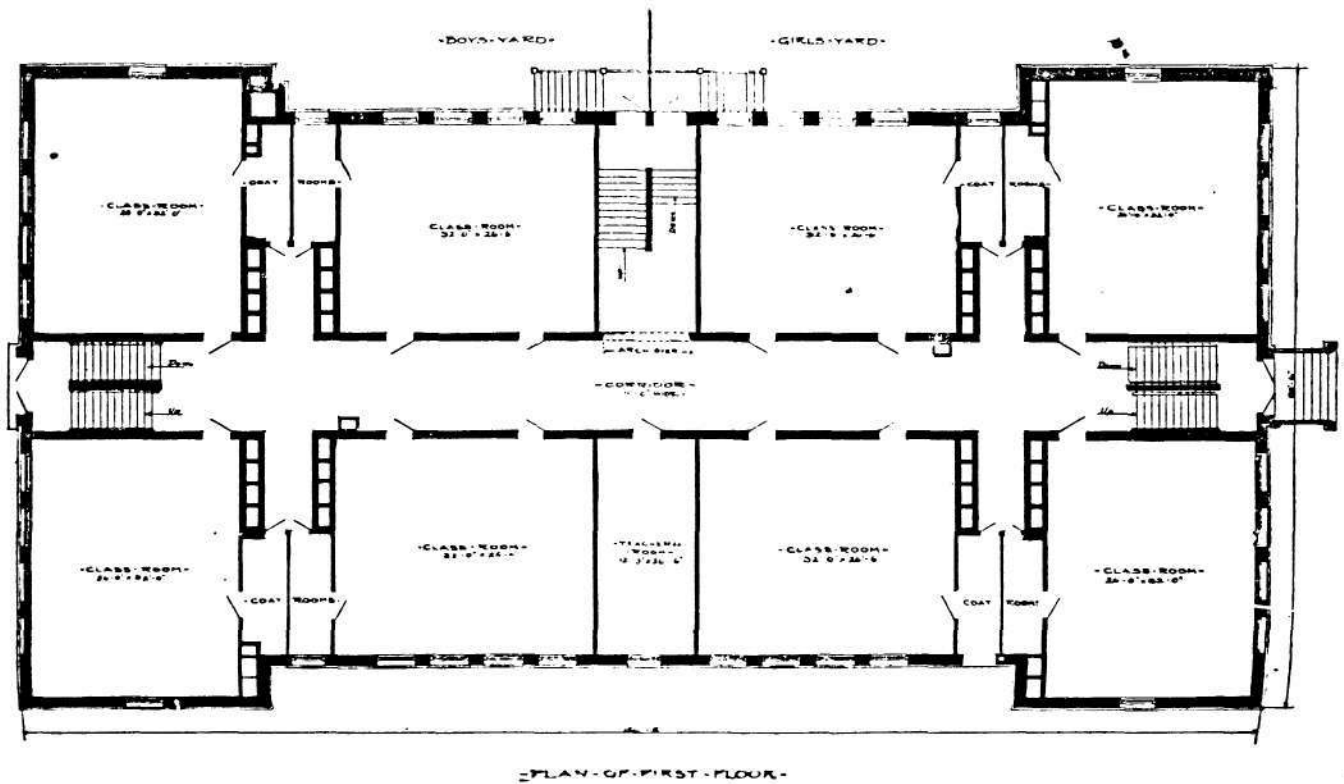
-PUBLIC-SCHOOL-BUILDINGS-
 *85-COR-LAKEWOOD-AVE-3-OLIVER-ST-
 *96-COR-RAMSAY-3-PULASKI-STB-



-FRONT-ELEVATION-



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS
 *85-COR-LAKEWOOD-AVE-F-OLIVER-ST-
 *96-COR RAMSAY-S-PULASKI-STS-

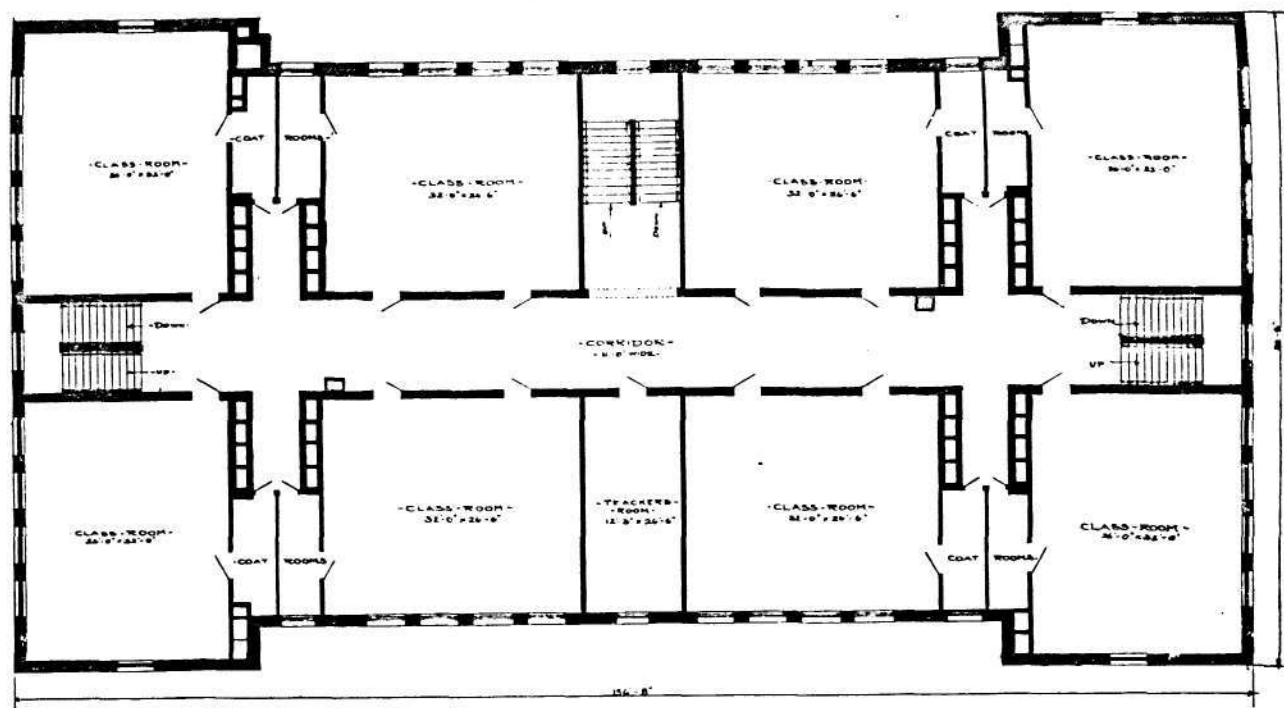


Recognizing the severity of the problem, the City ordered the construction of a new school and its cornerstone was laid in 1963. This modern school building is currently in use.

The old building, now vacant, is proposed for conversion to elderly housing. The present condition of the windows and doors, which have been damaged, covered, or replaced, detracts from the building's appearance, but these features could be restored. The roof damage on the south section also appears to be repairable. Overall, the exterior of the building retains a high degree of integrity.

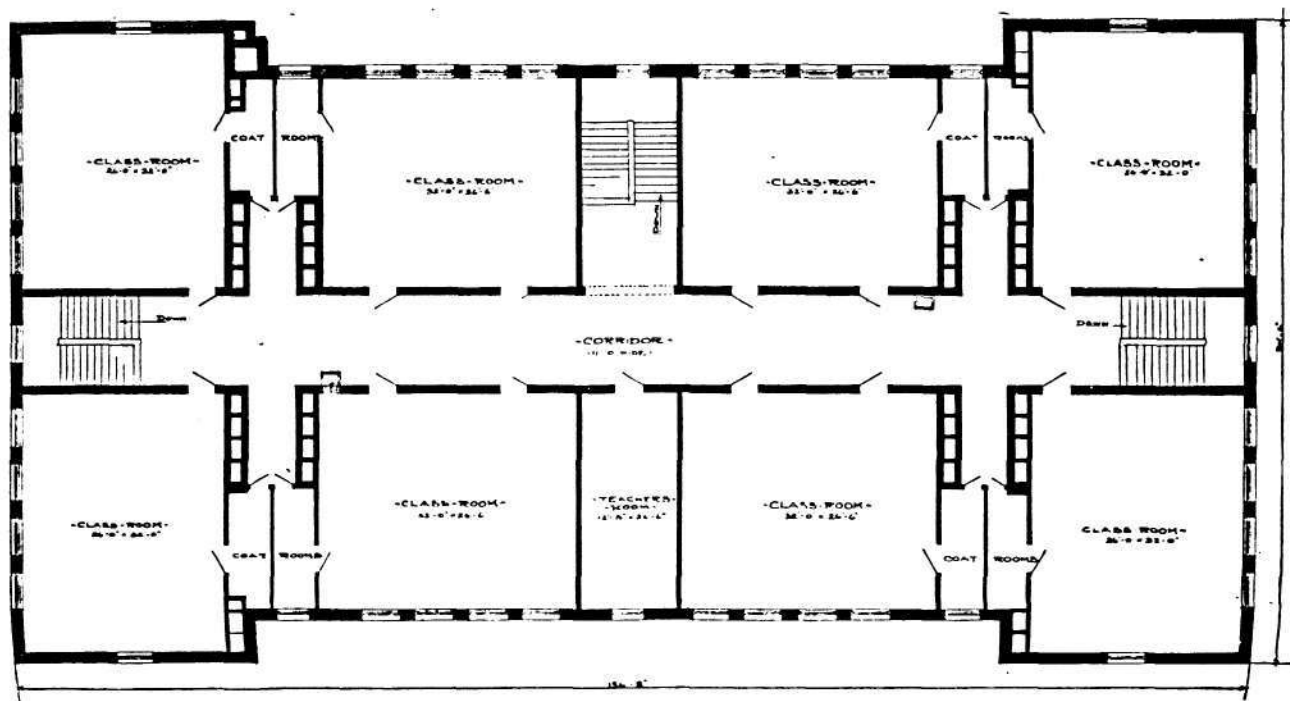
a small console is located near the roofline of the west elevation.

The arrangement of the interior of the school is shown on the attached plans. Fire damage is apparent at the roof of the southern section of the building. Since the interior of the building was not inspected, the extent of fire damage to the interior is not known. According to several local residents the building has been vacant for a number of years and vandals have set fire to the interior on several occasions. It is apparent that vandals have also broken numerous windows in the school and littered the schoolyard with broken glass and other debris. The building appears to be structurally sound however, and the exterior retains its integrity.



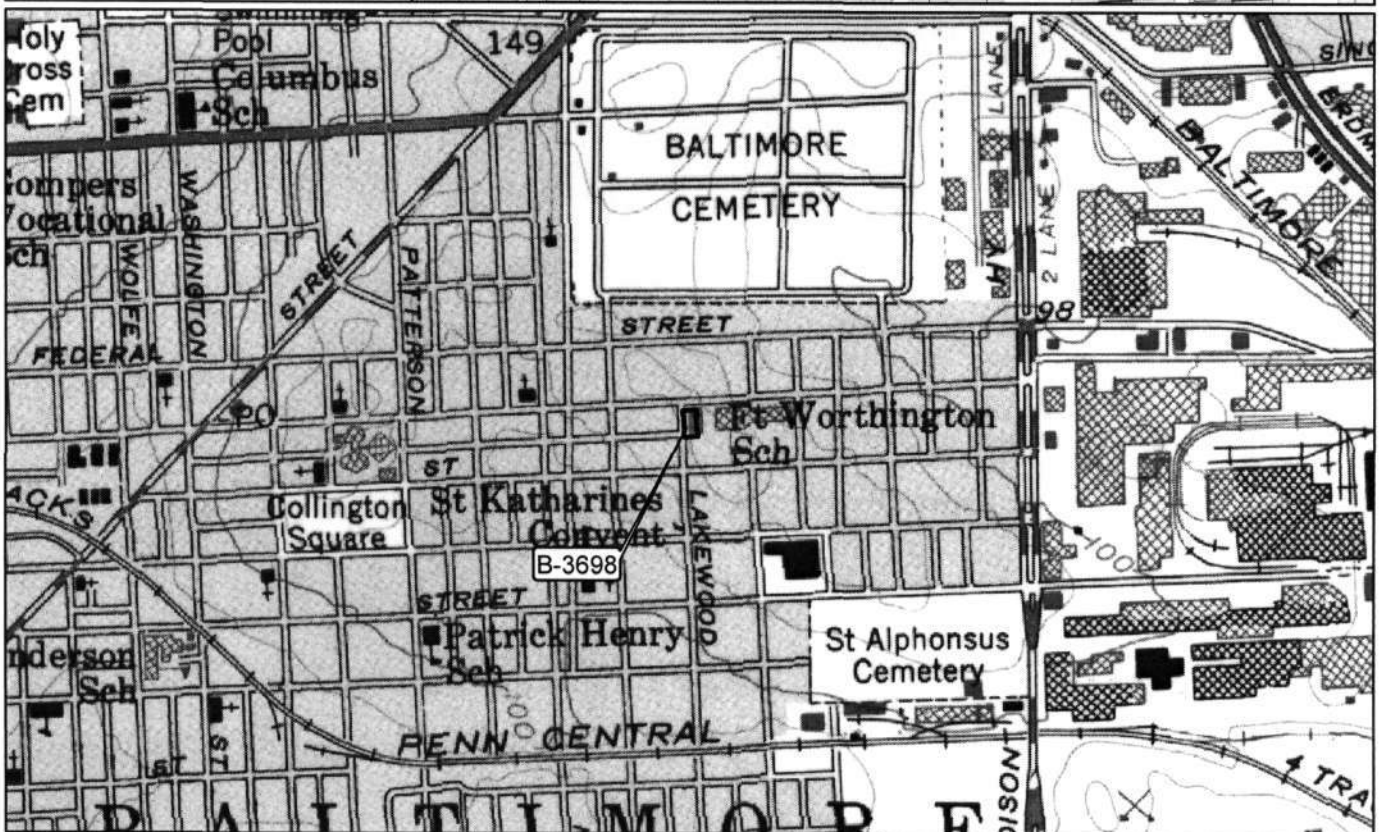
PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS -
 #85-COR-LAKWOOD-AVE-3-OLIVER-ST.
 #96-COR-RANSAY-3-PULASKI-ST.



PLAN OF THIRD FLOOR

B-3698
Public School #85
1401 N. Lakewood Avenue
Block 1507, Lot 002
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





School #85

B-3698

USGS 7.5 minute map

Baltimore East quadrangle

1:24000

1966