MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no X

Property Name: Poolesville High School Inventory Number: M: 17-68

Address: 17501 West Willard Road City: Poolesville Zip Code: 20837

County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: Poolesville

Owner: Montgomery County Board of Education Is the property being evaluated a district? ____yes

Tax Parcel Number: P985, P857, P927, P765, P800, Tax Map Number: CT22 Tax Account ID Number: 160300042221

Project: ____ Agency: ____

Site visit by MHT Staff: __X__no ____yes Name: ____ Date: ____

Is the property located within a historic district? ___yes __X__no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: ____

NR-listed district____yes Eligible district ___yes District Name: ____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ___yes ___no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ____

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ____yes __X__no

Criteria: ___A ____B ___C ____D Considerations: _____A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ____None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description

Summary

Poolesville High School is located at 17501 West Willard Road in Poolesville, Maryland. The main Poolesville High School building, which today extends across much of the site, was constructed in five phases between 1950 and 1976. The original 1950 portion of the school, originally built as an elementary school, was a small, roughly L-shaped plan building designed by the architecture firm of Johannes & Murray.[1] Johannes and Murray's design primarily followed a Modernist aesthetic, as the one-story building featured an irregular plan, flat roof, and brick veneer. Subsequent additions have enveloped most of the original portion, leaving only part of the north side exposed. The first two additions to the school, designed by architect Ronald Senseman and built in 1952 and 1956, respectively, gave the school a roughly U-shaped plan oriented toward West

[1] Clare Lise Kelly, *Montgomery Modern: Modern Architecture in Montgomery County, Maryland, 1930-1979* (Silver Spring: M-NCPPC, 2015).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ____ **Eligibility not recommended** __X__

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Comments: ____

Becky Roman — October 20, 2021

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

Reviewer, NR Program **Date**

Willard Road. The one-story additions, typical of school construction during this era, are faced in brick, feature ribbon and grouped windows, and have flat roofs. The 1952 addition was attached to the east end of the original building while the 1956 addition was built with two sections located at the east and west ends of the 1952 addition's south wing. The 1956 addition has served as the main entrance to the school since its completion. In 1969, two classroom additions were constructed – one off the south side of the original block, and one at the southeast corner of the school complex. Like the earlier additions, the 1969 construction is flat roofed, faced in brick, and features grouped fenestration. In 1976, the county renovated the existing structure and constructed a large addition which included an auditorium, new gymnasium, library, and greenhouse, as well as several classrooms. All the work was completed in 1978. A separate two-story Science Building was completed in 2009 adjacent to the southwest corner of the main school building.

Site

The Poolesville High School property consists of five parcels totaling 37.18 acres (Parcel P857, 6 acres; Parcel P927, 5 acres; Parcel P985, 24.9 acres; P800, 0.32 acres; Parcel P765, 0.96 acres). The main high school building is located on parcels P857 and P927, while the Science Building is located on only P927. The adjacent greenhouse, barn, and athletic facilities are located on Parcel P985. The collective school property is bordered to the north by Wootton Avenue as well as single- and multi-family residential housing, to the east by single- and multi- family housing, to the south by single-family housing, and to the west by West Willard Road, single-family housing, and the Poolesville Baptist Church. The main entrance to the school faces west and is accessed from West Willard Road by a semi-circular driveway. An offshoot of the paved drive extends south along the west side of the Science Building to a large parking lot which has a separate access off West Willard Road. Additional paved parking lots, accessed via Wootton Avenue, are located off the north and east sides of the main school building. Athletic fields and facilities are located south and east of the school buildings.

Main Block – Exterior

As discussed, Poolesville High School is a one-story, flat roof, brick clad building composed of five distinct building phases: the original 1950 building, and additions from 1952, 1956, 1969, and 1976. The various building campaigns make the school a large, sprawling building with an irregular plan. While some of the minimal exterior detailing varies by addition, the overall design follows a Modernist aesthetic. Common exterior elements include brick veneer laid variously in common bond and running bond with decorative soldier courses, and a narrow band of metal flashing. The 1969 addition at the southeast corner of the school, as well as the covered breezeway along the east side of the 1952 addition, feature a wide metal fascia with vertical ribs that creates a paneled appearance. This fascia is likely not original to the building but added at a later date.

The remaining visible sections of the 1950 building exterior is laid in a six-over-one common bond, while the 1952 and 1956 exteriors are laid in a five-over-one common bond. The final two addition from 1969 and 1976 are clad with a running bond red brick veneer, with soldier courses included in the 1976 addition. The red brick exterior from the 1976 addition is left exposed, while the rest of the brick exterior from the earlier original portion of the building and the earlier additions is painted a muted red color. While the architectural drawings for the earlier additions only say "brick" or "face brick" when referring to the exterior cladding, it is possible that the brick used on the additions is buff colored and was painted over to conform with the red brick used in the construction of the 1976 addition. It should be noted that portions of the 1956 addition exterior were altered with the application of an additional wythe over its original exterior during the 1976 construction and renovation. This brick, laid in running bond with soldier course accents, is likely tied back to the original brick exterior with metal ties to create a masonry cavity wall. The applied brick does not cover all of the 1956 addition's exterior, but typically extends from the base of the remaining exposed window openings to the roofline, interspersed with several full height sections that creates a recessed paneled appearance where the original exterior is still visible. The brick covers the majority of the original window openings in the west elevation, leaving only several clusters exposed. Of these exposed windows, the brick enclosed the upper half of the openings, leaving only the lower half exposed.

The primary elevation of the current school building is the west elevation fronting West Willard Road. The west elevation is composed of both the 1956 addition, which comprises the southern half of the elevation, and the 1976 addition, which comprises the main entrance and auditorium at the north end of the elevation. As previously noted, the 1956 addition was altered in 1976 with the application of an additional wythe of brick on sections of its exterior. The primary entrance to the school is in the 1976 portion of the west elevation, abutting the earlier addition to the south. The entrance is approached from

the west by a covered steel frame breezeway supported by central brick columns. The wide entry bay is set back from the building line within a covered recess. The entrance consists of two sets of double-leaf, flat, metal doors, each with a large rectangular light. Large, fixed sidelights with aluminum apron panels are found on either side of, and between, the two sets of entrance doors. Above the doors and windows are transom windows. The entry bay is flanked on each side by additional covered recesses, each containing a fixed-sash, metal framed, multi-light window with an aluminum apron panel.

The building's original exterior doors and nearly all of the windows have been replaced. Secondary entrances are located in each elevation. A total of four secondary entrances are located in the west elevation, with three to the north of the main entrance and one to the south. The three to the north of the main entrance, which include two single-leaf and one double-leaf flat metal doors, provide egress from the 1976 auditorium. The one to the south of the main entrance is a single-leaf flat metal door located within a greenhouse addition that projects out from the south elevation.

The north elevation of the school building, composed of elements of the original 1950 school building and the 1952, 1956, and 1976 additions, contains seven secondary entrances. Three of the entrances have flat, double-leaf metal doors with wide rectangular lights, each with transoms and sidelights with aluminum apron panels. A fourth entrance, located in the original 1950 portion of the school, has paired, single-leaf metal doors separated by a narrow section of the brick exterior. Each door has a wide rectangular light and is surmounted by a transom. The remaining three entrances contain flat, solid, single-leaf metal doors. In addition to the secondary entrances in the west elevation, a set of solid, double-leaf metal doors provide access to an exterior mechanical room, an overhead rolling metal door that accesses the boiler room, and an overhead rolling metal door that accesses the stage area of the auditorium.

Within the east elevation are ten secondary entrances, seven of which contain double-leaf, flat, solid, metal doors, and three which contain single-leaf, flat, solid, metal doors. These doors provide access to the kitchen, cafeteria, and shop/mechanical rooms. At the rear of the school, the south elevation and a courtyard open to the south collectively contain ten secondary entrances. The most important of these is the entrance to the main school gymnasium, located in the south elevation, west of the open courtyard. Similar to the primary entrance to the building, the gymnasium entrance is set back from the building line within a covered recess supported by a single brick-clad column north-of-center that is flush with the building exterior. The entrance consists of three sets of double-leaf, flat, metal doors, each with a large rectangular light, that open into the gymnasium lobby. Large, fixed sidelights with apron panels are found on either side of, and between, the three sets of entrance doors. Above the doors and windows are transoms. A brick column support separates the southernmost of the three sets of doors from the other two. Several feet north, but within the same covered recess, is a fourth set of double-leaf doors that access an interior corridor. These doors are identical to the others but only have a sidelight and apron panel on the west side of the door. The remaining secondary entrances include two additional sets of double-leaf, flat, metal doors with large rectangular lights and transoms—one to the south of the gymnasium entrance and one within the courtyard—as well as one set of double-leaf, flat metal doors with narrow rectangular lights; a single-leaf, flat, metal door with a wide rectangular light and transom; two sets of double-leaf, flat, metal doors; and three single-leaf, flat, metal doors.

Nearly all the original windows in the main Poolesville High School building have been replaced. Three original windows within the 1956 addition on the south elevation remain intact. Now enveloped by a greenhouse room addition added in 1976, the windows are comprised of two, vertically stacked horizontal lights in metal frames with the upper portion of the windows filled by glass block. Six additional windows at the north end of the east elevation of the 1952 addition remain partially intact, with only the glass block portion remaining in place while the lower operable portion of the window has been replaced with a two-light, aluminum frame sash hopper window. The remaining windows throughout the school all appear to be replacements of varying types, and the primary window type is a vertically stacked two-light aluminum frame sash—both single and paired—with the lower light being an operable hopper window. Less common is the two-light, aluminum frame hopper window, used to partially replace several windows on the east elevation, and also used throughout the west elevation. The other replacement window type is a vertically stacked two-light aluminum frame sash comprised of a larger fixed upper pane and a lower operable awning window. Only seven examples of this window type were identified, all at the south end of the east elevation of the school.

Main Block – Interior

The interior of the main block exhibits an overall uniform, straightforward scheme of architectural elements and materials. The primary, west elevation entrance to the school leads into a small entry lobby with an irregular L-shaped plan, constructed as part of the 1976 addition to the school. A small security office opens into the lobby from the southeast. The east side of the lobby is composed of fixed windows in aluminum frames with metal apron panels, punctuated by two sets of flat, metal, double-leaf doors with large rectangular lights. These doors open into the east-west corridor, which provides access to the auditorium. On the south side of the lobby, a single set of flat, metal, double-leaf doors with large rectangular lights, capped by a two-light transom, provides access to a north-south corridor containing classrooms and the administrative offices. A secondary entry lobby, located at the south end of the north-south corridor leading from the main lobby, contains two sets of double-leaf, flat, metal doors with large rectangular lights, surmounted by transoms and flanked by sidelights with metal apron panels. This lobby, which is part of the 1956 addition and served as the main entrance to the school for twenty years, retains original glazed tile walls and ceramic tile floor.

Circulation is enabled by a series of interconnected east-west and north-south corridors throughout the building. These corridors are typically generously proportioned, rectangular volumes punctuated by door and window openings, niches, and steel lockers. They are finished with replacement square tile linoleum floors and feature suspended ceilings with acoustic tiles and fluorescent light fixtures. Although these elements are typical throughout, the wall materials and finishes differ due to the various additions constructed over a nearly thirty-year period. The corridors in the original 1950 portion of the school, designed by Johannes & Murray is simply finished with concrete block walls. Portions of the original building's brick exterior are visible in some of the corridors as the building was largely enclosed by the later additions. The corridors in the 1952 and 1956 additions, both designed by Ronald Senseman, feature glazed tile and plaster walls, while those in the 1969 and 1976 additions, feature simple concrete block walls similar to the original 1950 portion of the school. There are also several areas within corridors throughout the school where portions of what was originally the brick exterior of the building—including the original 1950 block and various additions—is visible due to enclosure by the construction of the building additions. Corridors are separated by double-leaf, flat steel doors with narrow rectangular lights; several feature single-light transoms.

Single-leaf, flat wood doors lead into classrooms from the hallways. Doors in the 1952 and 1956 additions are located within recessed niches and contain three stacked horizontal lights with wired glass. Doors in the original 1950 block and the later 1969 and 1976 additions feature a narrow rectangular light with wired glass. These doors within the 1950 portion of the building appear to be replacements. The classrooms throughout the school feature concrete block walls and linoleum floors.

The school contains a cafeteria located off a north-south corridor within the 1952 addition. The cafeteria, which also served as the school gymnasium prior to the construction of the 1956 addition, features linoleum floors; glazed tile, concrete block, and brick masonry walls; and wood frame, low pitched gable ceiling. Suspended fluorescent light fixtures have been attached to the wood frame ceiling. Five laminated wood arches/trusses span the room, supporting the roof framing. The wood arches are engaged at the base of the wall, angle outward and turn into a curve where the wall and ceiling meet before continuing to the peak of the ceiling. Clerestory windows line the east and west sides of the cafeteria, each containing a one-over-one, metal sash window with horizontal rectangular lights. The windows are paired between each arch.

The old gymnasium, built as part of the 1956 addition and completed in 1958, is located at the southwest end of the main school building. The gym features wood floors, glazed tile and concrete block walls, and a wood panel ceiling supported by a network of exposed steel bowstring trusses. Suspended pendant lights hang from the ceiling. Clerestory windows and a series of retractable bleachers line the east and west walls. The main gymnasium, constructed as part of the 1976 expansion of the school, is located east of the old gym, separated by the boys and girls locker rooms and a north-south corridor. This gym features similar materials and finishes, with wood flooring and concrete block walls. The ceiling is composed of large, rectangular asbestos panels crossed by a network of steel girders. Retractable bleachers line the east and west walls.

Located at the core of the school, the library was also constructed during the 1976 expansion, and features carpeted floors, concrete block walls, and an acoustic tile ceiling with fluorescent lights. Also constructed in 1976, the school auditorium is accessed from a lobby or corridor north of the main entry lobby to the school. The auditorium lobby has linoleum floors, brick walls, rubber bases, and a dropped ceiling pierced by can lights. Two sets of flat, double-leaf metal doors on the north side of

the lobby access the auditorium. The auditorium itself features carpeted floors, concrete block walls, suspended acoustic panels and can lights in the ceiling, and three sections of seats divided by aisles leading down to a stage at the north end.

Science Building – Exterior

The Poolesville High School Science Building, constructed in 2009, is located off West Willard Road, adjacent to the southwest corner of the main High School building. The two-story building, which features an irregular plan, is of steel and concrete block construction, faced in a brick veneer laid in a running bond pattern, and has a flat roof. Red brick is utilized on the lower story and buff brick on the upper, the two separated by a cast stone string course that also serves as the sill for the second story windows. A second cast stone string course is located above the second story windows. Additional cast stone elements include sills and lintels at the first-story windows. A single course of buff brick at the first-story aides in visually breaking up the massing of the red brick. The building is accented on its north elevation by a decorative central open gable that contains a fixed, double-height, segmental arched, window with the main entrance at its base. The main entrance consists of a single set of flat, metal, double-leaf doors with large rectangular lights. A second set of double-leaf doors is centrally located in the south elevation at the rear of the building. Three secondary entrances located in the north, east, and south elevations each consist of single-leaf, flat, aluminum doors. The primary window types include a four-light, fixed-sash, aluminum window—utilized throughout the building—and a six-light, segmental arched aluminum window used only at the first-story. The latter is composed of three sets of two lights stacked over one-another, the upper and lower of which are fixed while the central two are operable awning windows. All the windows feature decorative cast concrete sills and lintels. The windows in the south and west elevations are flanked by vertical fins—clad with the same brick and cast concrete finishes—which extend from ground level to the upper string course. Those in the south elevation contain flat metal sunshades over each window bay that are held in place by the vertical fin elements.

Science Building – Interior

The 2009 Science Building is characterized by a series of large, science and technology classrooms, administrative, and service spaces arranged around its north-south corridors. The interior of the building is modestly finished with square tile linoleum floors, concrete block walls, and dropped panel ceilings.

Greenhouse and Barn

A one-story greenhouse is located to the east of the school. The exact date of construction for the greenhouse is unknown, but it appears to have been constructed at the time of the 1976 additions, based on the construction. The greenhouse consists of a one-story, rectangular-plan, flat roof, brick-clad building that houses gardening supplies, and a glass and metal greenhouse that extends to its east.

A small frame barn is situated to the east of the greenhouse. The barn was extant at the time that the school board acquired the property in 1949. The two-story barn features a metal gambrel roof and is clad in a combination of wood siding and cement block. While the exact date of the barn is unknown it appears to date to the first half of the twentieth-century, based on the character of the construction and the materials used. The building's window openings have all been boarded-up, and feature cement sills and wood lintels. The main entrance to the barn is a set of double-leaf wood doors. The building is a typical example of a twentieth-century agricultural outbuilding and is currently in poor condition.

Alterations to the Main Block

Following the completion of the 1976-1978 additions and renovations, no further additions have been made to the main Poolesville High School building, though periodic maintenance and mechanical updates have occurred. In 1997, one of the rooms within the school was renovated to accommodate use as a computer repair shop. The light fixtures, windows, and mechanical and electrical components were all replaced and updated. From 2009 through 2012, the HVAC equipment throughout the entire school was replaced in several phases, the work coinciding with the separate construction of the Science Building. The HVAC replacement was completed by Building Dynamics LLC, Paulco Engineering, Inc., and B2E Consulting

Engineers. Additional alterations to the main block of the school include the replacement of the majority of the original windows and exterior doors as evidenced from historic photographs and on-site inspection.[2]

Integrity

While Poolesville High School retains historic integrity in some areas, the extensive enlargement of the school over time has impacted the original design intent and dramatically changed the appearance of the facility. The school remains in its original **location**, and the school is still oriented toward West Willard Road. The school's Modernist design elements largely remain intact, but integrity of **design** has been diminished considerably in other areas by the many additions constructed onto the original building between 1952 and 1976. These additions have rendered architects Dana B. Johannes and Loren L. Murray's original 1950 portion of the school, as well as architect Ronald Senseman's 1952 and 1956 additions, virtually unrecognizable. The 1969 and 1976 additions infilled what was a large courtyard of the school, and enveloped much of the earlier addition exteriors, including nearly all the original 1950 portion of the building. Other impacts to design integrity have included the replacement original windows and primary entrance doors throughout much of the building. Replacement of the windows and doors has also affected integrity of **materials** and **workmanship**. The **setting**, originally semi-rural with open fields to the east, south, and west, and historic single-family homes along Wootton Avenue to the north, has been heavily altered. From the 1970s through the 2010s, the development of contemporary single- and multi-family residential neighborhoods to the east, south, and west has significantly altered the landscape. The school was originally designed as a modest school facility on a large, open property, and exhibited a modernist aesthetic. The many additions to the school, several of which have obscured much of the original construction and early additions, have diminished the original **feeling** of a small, community school and its **association** with post-war school development in Montgomery County.

Historic Context

Postwar School Development in Montgomery County

Montgomery County experienced vigorous suburban residential development after World War II, creating the need for new schools. One of the fastest growing suburban counties in the country, it benefited from its close proximity to the nation's capital, abundant opportunities for both government and private sector employment, ample available farmland for development, and postwar federal financing programs. Increased automobile ownership after the war also enabled Montgomery County's suburban development. During the 1950s and 60s, the recently constructed I-270 emerged as a High-Tech Corridor, anchored by the presence of federal agencies such as the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Bureau of Standards. These factors resulted in an increase in the county's population from 50,000 in 1940 to 500,000 by 1979.[3]

Postwar school development in Montgomery County coincided with the spread of the Modern Movement in architecture. By 1945, the Montgomery County school system was regarded as one of the best in the country, and enjoyed a strong national reputation, another incentive which attracted new residents. Postwar population increases strained the county's education budget, yet strong popular support existed for elevated funding and the construction of new schools. A "new generation" of schools were developed during an intensive period of construction during the 1950s and 1960s. This building campaign coincided with the increased influence of the Modern Movement in America at mid-century, resulting in new schools that utilized industrially produced materials and were low and horizontal in their massing, a departure from the classicism and monumentality of the county's early twentieth-century schools. After 1955, these new schools were larger in size than earlier projects, and while some were architecturally innovative, cost-effectiveness, functionality, and flexibility served as the primary considerations guiding their development.[4]

The better postwar schools constructed in Montgomery County stand out for their inventive building plans, use of natural lighting, and the minimalist functionalism and industrial aesthetic that characterized the Modern Movement. Ronald Senseman's designs for Oak View Elementary School (1948, demolished), Rolling Terrace Elementary School (1950,

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[2] The exact date of the window and door replacement is not known at the time of the submission of this document as the drawings that would correlate to the replacement were not included among those provided by Montgomery County.
[3] Kelly, *Montgomery Modern*, 8-10, 103.
[4] Kelly, *Montgomery Modern*, 62, 140.

demolished), and Viers Mill Elementary School (1950, extant) received AIA and Washington Board of Trade awards from juries that included prominent modernists such as Edward Durell Stone and Pietro Belluschi. Senseman's schools were low-slung buildings that embodied the welcoming, informal, almost domestic ambiance that educational theorists and school planners at the time sought to convey. The Green Acres School (1958, extant), designed by the New York firm of Davis, Brody, Juster, & Wisniewski, in association with local architect Harold Esten, received an AIA first prize award for school design from the local Potomac Valley Chapter, and a certificate of merit from the New York State Association of Architects. As originally constructed, the school contained a central all-purpose room surrounded by twelve classrooms with sliding doors that opened onto covered terraces. Deigert & Yerkes' innovative design for Bushey Drive Elementary School in Silver Spring (1961, extant), featured a circular building plan, with classrooms located on the first and third floors, and common rooms and offices on the second floor. The campus of Walt Whitman High School (1962, demolished) contained a gymnasium housed in a Buckminster Fuller-inspired geodesic dome. The school was designed by the firm of McLeod & Ferrara, the building was featured in a 1961 issue of *Architectural Record*.[5]

Poolesville High School

School construction on the property began during the early twentieth century. Dewalt Willard, a resident of Poolesville was elected school commissioner in 1904, and he and Reverend S. R. White—a Baptist minister who served a six-year term as superintendent of schools, approached the Board with a request for $100,000 to build a new public school in Poolesville. The Board eventually approved the expenditure, and on May 19, 1905, a site for the new school, the same site of the current Poolesville High School, was purchased from Edward and Betty Wootton for $410. In June 1905, a building was constructed on the site to meet the need for a consolidated primary school in the Poolesville area. The new school, completed in January 1906, was of frame construction, two stories with two classrooms on each floor. State Board of Education records indicate the enrollment for the 1905-1906 school year was 89 students in grades one through seven.[6]

The school population increased along with the growth of the Poolesville community, and in 1910, eighth and ninth grade courses of study were added. In 1911, the name Poolesville Grammar School was officially changed to Poolesville High School, and the Beallsville School was consolidated with it. In 1924, two additional acres were purchased for $300, and a new building that housed a gymnasium/auditorium was completed in 1925, added to the back portion of the original structure. Enrollment increased to 275 students that year. During construction of the 1925 addition, several classes were held in buses parked beside the building. Additional land was purchased by the school board on May 16, 1929, to accommodate future expansion of the school and recreational facilities.[7]

In 1938, a one-room wood frame schoolhouse which was no longer being used was obtained for use at the Poolesville school. The building was deconstructed and reassembled adjacent to the northeast side of the Poolesville High School to be used as a home economics building. It was partially remodeled to accommodate its new use, with partitions and kitchen equipment installed to resemble a house. In 1939, Montgomery County announced a four-year $750,000 school construction program to help alleviate overcrowding, including approximately $15,000 for land purchase and grading at the Poolesville School.[8] That same year, the Montgomery County Board of Education purchased five acres from Harry L. Stevens to expand the school grounds at Poolesville, and a primary school building for use by the elementary school was constructed approximately eighty-seven feet northeast of the main Poolesville High School building. Constructed of concrete block with a brick veneer, the building contained three large classrooms. Construction labor for the building was funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).[9]

Following World War II, the Montgomery County superintendent of public schools and the school board discussed potentially closing Poolesville High School and transporting students to high schools located in Rockville and Gaithersburg in order to

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[5] Kelly, *Montgomery Modern*, 62-65, 140-43.
[6] Montgomery County Retired Teachers Association (MCRTA), *Vistas: People and Events in the Growth of the Montgomery County Public Schools* (Rockville, MD: Bicentennial Steering Committee of the MCRTA, 1976), 209-210.
[7] MCRTA, *Vistas*, 210-211.
[8] "Montgomery County Maps 4-Year Schools Plan to Cost $750,000," *The Evening Star*, 14 May 1939.
[9] Montgomery County Land Records, Book CKW 761, Page 250, 6 December 1939, mdlandrec.net; MCRTA, *Vistas*, 211-212.

consolidate schools and funding. Protests and dissent from members of the community who advocated for the school defeated these efforts, and Poolesville High School remained open.[10]

The grounds of Poolesville High School were further expanded in 1949 with the purchase of an additional 25 acres from Harry L Stevens.[11] Located east of the school complex, the new parcel contained a small barn which still stands on the grounds today. In 1950, the Montgomery County Board of Education proposed an expenditure of $30.5 million on new school construction over a five-year period. Projects slated for 1950-1951 included the new Poolesville High School, in addition to the completion and equipping of school facilities in Germantown, Damascus, Laytonsville, and Clarksburg.[12]

In 1952, the county budgeted funds for the construction of a new addition to Poolesville High School. Designed by Ronald Senseman—an architect who designed many schools throughout Montgomery County—the addition was designed to house offices, a library, a science laboratory, a home economics classroom, two shop classrooms, and a gymnasium.[13] Additional expansion of the school facilities was initially planned for 1954, but the Montgomery County School Board revised its construction program for the 1953-1954 fiscal year to keep within the budget authorized by the council, which delayed another planned addition for Poolesville High School.[14]

In October 1954, the old Poolesville High School Building, completed nearly 50 years earlier in 1906, was deemed unsafe due to inadequate fire safeguards on the second floor. Classes which had been held on the second floor were subsequently moved to the first floor.[15] The first phase of a new, second addition to the school complex, also designed by Senseman, was completed in 1956. Funding prevented the rest of the addition from being completed until 1958. Following the completion of this addition, the old two-story wood frame Poolesville High School building was demolished, and the wood-frame home economics building was sold and removed from the site.[16]

In 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled on the case of Brown v. Board of Education, declaring that segregated schools that followed the "separate but equal" accommodations were no longer legal, and that states with segregated school systems—including Maryland—must integrate. Montgomery County's Board of Education was the first county in Maryland to move forward with planning the integration process after the ruling.[17] Phase 1 of the County integration plan involved assigning 330 African American students from the four closed elementary schools to thirteen different former white-only schools, as well as extending the offer to 160 African American students to attend nine previously white-only junior and senior high schools. Phase 2 of the integration plan involved the integration of up-county schools, including Poolesville High School.

While there was some anticipated resistance to integration during the first phase, the process went relatively smoothly overall. With the implementation of Phase 2, however, white members of the Poolesville community staged protests outside of the school. Some parents kept their children at home in protest at the start of the 1956-1957 school year. So many students were absent that student attendance approximately 40% below normal.[18] On September 7, white members of the Poolesville community attempted to hold an anti-integration demonstration on the Rockville Courthouse grounds but were confronted and dispersed by police. Two days later, county authorities began to clamp down on absenteeism. While protests continued and several white families pulled their children out of Poolesville High School to attend private schools, integration moved forward. These types of protests against integration were not exclusive to Poolesville High School, but also occurred in other areas of Montgomery County, as well as across Maryland and the nation. By the 1957-1958 school year, integration in

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[10] MCRTA, *Vistas*, 212.
[11] Montgomery County Land Records, Book CKW 1224, Page 596, 24 January 1949, mdlandrec.net.
[12] "$30.5 Million in Next Five Years For Schools," *The News*, 15 May 1950, 1.
[13] "5-Year School Building Program Set in Montgomery," *The News*, 13 February 1953, 5.
[14] "Board Trims School Budget to Fit Funds," *The Evening Star*, 4 August 1953.
[15] "School Floor Called Unsafe in Poolesville," *The Washington Post*, 10 October 1954; "75 Pupils to Move From Classrooms Without Fire Escape," *The Evening Star*, 12 October 1954; "All Classes Go to First Floor at Poolesville in Safety Move," *The Washington Post,* 13 October 1954.
[16] MCRTA, *Vistas*, 213.
[17] "The Decree Had Been Handed Down," Montgomery History, accessed 9 September 2021, https://montgomeryhistory.org/online-exhibit-desegregation/.
[18] "Two Protesting Poolesville Parents Send Their Children Back to School," *The Washington Post*, 7 September 1956.

Montgomery County entered its third year, its second in Poolesville, at which point much of the resistance and protest to integration had subsided.[19]

In 1961, the state Commission on Secondary Schools approved an application for accreditation submitted by Poolesville High School. The accreditation was an indication of the school's high academic standards, and it allowed students applying to college to bypass entrance examinations.[20] This marked the first time in the history of Poolesville High School that it was fully accredited. In 1962, the combined junior-senior high school had a total enrollment of 425 students.[21] Between 1965 and 1968, the library was relocated in what had been the old elementary school's auditorium. In 1969, a new addition was completed at the southeast end of the school building that housed a child development laboratory, new art room, carpentry and auto shops, and a new greenhouse and reading room. That year, the combined enrollment of the school numbered approximately 600 students.[22]

In 1971, Montgomery County again discussed closing Poolesville High School and consolidating the student body into other county schools. County officials implied that the student body was too small which made it difficult or impossible to offer certain courses available at other county high schools with larger student bodies. Again, however, the community rallied in defense of the school. Protests and a petition prevented the closure of the school and instead resulted in funding for the remodeling and renovation of the structure. In August 1976, a $4.76 million dollar contract was awarded for the renovation which included a new auditorium, library, gymnasium, and greenhouse, as well as six classrooms. Portions of the building interior were reconfigured, and air conditioning was installed throughout the entire building. Completed in 1978, the newly renovated school could accommodate approximately 1000 students.[23]

Additional alterations to the school property came in 2009 with the construction of a two-story Science Building adjacent to the school along West Willard Road.

Architects

Dana B. Johannes and Loren L. Murray

Architects Dana B. Johannes and Loren L. Murray established the architectural practice of Johannes & Murray in 1945. Dana Berry Johannes, Jr., was born in Washington, D.C. in 1910. He graduated from McKinley Technical High School in 1928. Johannes started his career working as a detailer and draftsman for various millwork companies while continuing his education over the next decade with special courses. From 1932 to 1933, he worked as a draftsman and designer for the architectural division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. He traveled abroad between 1934 and 1935, visiting France, Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium.[24]

Johannes began actively practicing as a designer in the District of Columbia in 1935, designing single-family housing and apartment buildings for a number of different developers. He designed dwellings in developing neighborhoods in the upper northwest section of Washington, including American University Park, and Chevy Chase, D.C., and Cleveland Park both before and after World War II. Most of these were two-story, three-bay Colonial Revival-Style houses. In the years leading up to World War II, as New Deal programs and the defense build-up rapidly expanded the federal work force, there was great demand for modestly priced housing in the Washington area, and Johannes designed numerous small row houses and modest two-story apartment buildings with Colonial Revival-Style architectural details in various quadrants of the city including Brookland and areas east of the Anacostia River. During the war, when building materials were allocated to war-related construction, Johannes's work was limited to a few small apartment buildings in southeast Washington. During the years of

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[19] "Integration is Extended in Nearby Maryland Counties," *The Washington Post*, 8 September 1957.
[20] "Beallsville," *The News*, 15 March 1961, 18.
[21] "Hagerstown Native Produces State Class C Champion," *Morning Herald*, 15 March 1962, 26.
[22] MCRTA, *Vistas*,
[23] MCRTA, *Vistas*,; Montgomery County, Maryland, Capital Budget, "Poolesville HS Current Revitalizations/Expansions," https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISCAPITAL/Common/Project.aspx?ID=P136521 (accessed August 12, 2021).
[24] EHT Traceries, Inc., "Dana B. Johannes Jr.," in *D.C. Architects Directory*, prepared for the D.C. Office of Planning, October 2010.

his solo practice, Johannes also designed several churches, including Fountain Memorial Baptist Church (subsequently Little Rock Church of Deliverance) on Naylor Road, S.E., and a few commercial buildings.[25]

Loren L. Murray was born in Carmen, Oklahoma in 1909. He attended Central High School in Washington, D.C. and studied architecture at George Washington University (1932-1934) and the Carnegie Institute of Technology (1934-1936). After graduating, Murray initially worked as a draftsman for Dana B. Johannes from 1936 to 1941. During World War II, he served as an associate architect with the U.S. Navy, based at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.[26]

At the end of World War II, in 1945, Johannes and Murray formed a partnership based in Silver Spring. While Johannes's work as a designer had been largely residential, the new firm undertook numerous commercial and institutional projects in addition to residential architecture. Johannes & Murray became best known for its work designing schools. The firm was responsible for the design of about 350 school projects in the greater Washington area and Johannes was instrumental in the design of about 200 of the firm's school projects, including the Charles W. Woodward, Albert Einstein, and Springbrook High Schools in Montgomery County, Maryland; Maces Lane High School in Cambridge, Maryland; and the Science Building and some dormitory buildings at the University of Maryland, College Park. Murray was equally as accomplished as a school architect, and designed facilities in Prince George's and Howard Counties as well as in western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. In addition, Murray designed the McKeldin Library and main dining hall at the University of Maryland. The firm received a number of local and national awards and citations for their school designs. Johannes and Murray also designed banks, offices, and commercial buildings.[27]

In 1958, Johannes moved to Florida and opened a Johannes & Murray office in Clearwater. There, he worked on office buildings and a high-rise condominium project. The partnership was dissolved in 1963 and Johannes continued to practice under his own name. The St. Paul United Methodist Church in Largo, Florida (1968) and the Peoples State Bank, New Port Richey (1969) are among his late works.[28] Murray continued to practice architecture in Silver Spring until his retirement in the late 1970s.[29]

Dana B. Johannes helped organize and was the first president of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He later served as president of the Florida Central Chapter.[30] Loren L. Murray became a member of the Potomac Valley Chapter in 1947. His membership classification was elevated to Member Emeritus in 1981.[31] In addition, Murray served on the AIA's educational committee and the Maryland Architectural Registration Board.[32]

Ronald S. Senseman

Ronald Sylvester Senseman's lifework included over 2,000 projects including 50 churches and 150 schools, as well as hospitals, hotels, and nursing homes. He was most recognized in his lifetime for his innovative lightweight construction in school architecture. A recognized authority on the design and construction of school buildings, he published articles and served as consultant to the government on the topic. In addition, Senseman published articles and taught classes on the design of churches.[33]

A New Jersey native, Senseman first studied architectural drawing in a vocational high school in Camden, New Jersey. He worked there for a year as a draftsman for a local architect before moving to the Washington area in 1931. Senseman attended

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[25] EHT Traceries, Inc., "Dana B. Johannes Jr.," in *D.C. Architects Directory*, prepared for the D.C. Office of Planning, October 2010.
[26] American Institute of Architects, Application for Membership, "Loren L. Murray," 21 November 1946.
[27] "Dana B. Johannes Dies; Ex-Area Architect," *Evening Star*, July 10, 1972, 26; "Retired Architect Loren L. Murray Dies at 78," *Washington Post*, 1 January 1988, B10.
[28] *D.C. Architects Directory.*
[29] "Retired Architect Loren L. Murray Dies at 78," *Washington Post*, 1 January 1988, B10.
[30] "Dana B. Johannes Dies; Ex-Area Architect," *Evening Star*, 10 July 1972, 26.
[31] American Institute of Architects, Application for Membership, "Loren L. Murray," 21 November 1946.
[32] "Retired Architect Loren L. Murray Dies at 78," *Washington Post*, 1 January 1988, B10.
[33] Kelly, *Montgomery Modern*, 193.

Columbia Union College between 1931 and 1934 and attended Catholic University part-time through 1940. Establishing a private practice in 1935, Senseman designed small houses that were in great demand in the Depression era. In 1944, he was admitted to the American Institute of Architects. Senseman was a republican nominee for the Maryland House of Delegates, in 1958.

Like Johannes, Senseman was a founder of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and served as its second president in 1955 after Johannes's term. A member of several national committees, he worked on planning and zoning committees of the Washington Building Congress, Home Builders Association, and Washington Board of Trade. In recognition of his accomplishments, Senseman was advanced to AIA Fellow membership in 1966. He was one of 25 Fellows in the Washington area at the time, representing 3.8 percent of the AIA membership nationally. Senseman's major works include Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park (1936-1960s); Leland Memorial Hospital (1936-42), in the Riverdale, MD Historic District; Andrews Air Force Base Chapel in Maryland; and the Andrews University Administration Building in Michigan (1964).[34]

The majority of Senseman's work in Montgomery County was contemporary modern. His innovative elementary school design for Forest Grove Elementary School (1950) was recognized by Progressive Architecture, and he received awards from the Washington Board of trade for Oak View (1950), Viers Mill (1951) and Rolling Terrace (1951) Elementary Schools. He designed the modernist Montgomery County Council office building (1952) in Rockville and Wheaton High School (1953). In Washington, DC, he designed a modernist office building for his firm at 7705 Georgia Avenue (1954), which was recognized with an AIA Potomac Valley award, and had such innovations as low-maintenance plastic wall paneling and aluminum ceilings, and acoustical and thermal installation.[35] In 1999, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Andrews University. Ronald Senseman died in 2001 at 88.[36]

Statement of Significance

Evaluating the facility in its entirety as a typical example of postwar school design in Montgomery County, Poolesville High School does not possess the level of historical or architectural significance required for listing under **National Register Criteria A** and **C**. Research did not uncover associations with individuals of local or national prominence that would warrant consideration under **Criterion B**. The school was not evaluated under **Criterion D** (archaeology).

Poolesville High School demonstrates insufficient historical significance to support eligibility under Criterion A. While the school reflects the broad patterns of growth in the county's school system in the postwar period, Poolesville High School was one of several facilities constructed during this period that included Richard Montgomery High School, Damascus High School, Montgomery Hills Junior High School, and Glen Haven Elementary School. These schools, in many cases expanded with additions over the ensuing decades, reflected a period of increased school construction precipitated by the dramatic population increases experienced in Montgomery County during the mid-twentieth century, a pattern also seen in Baltimore County and other populous suburban counties in the state. The construction and subsequent expansions of Poolesville High School were therefore primarily driven by the urgent, county-wide need for additional classrooms to mitigate crowding of school facilities during this period, and as such, does not represent a historically significant event in the history of education in Montgomery County.

Poolesville High School also lacks the level of architectural significance required for listing under National Register Criterion C. While influenced by the Modern Movement, the school is not representative of a specific design trend within the movement, nor is it an architecturally significant expression of mid-century modernism within Montgomery County. Featuring long classroom wings and repetitive fenestration, both the original portion of the school (1950) and its early additions (1952 and 1956) are typical examples of American postwar school design. Such schools were intended to meet the needs of the expanding county student population at a time when the school board was building many new schools, and cost-effectiveness and speed of construction were principal considerations informing design and development. In addition, the original aesthetic

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[34] Kelly, Montgomery Modern, 193.
[35] Kelly, Montgomery Modern, 193.
[36] "Ronald Senseman," Montgomery County Planning Department, accessed 9 September 2021, https://montgomeryplanning.org/historic/montgomery_modern/RonaldSenseman.shtm.

of the school's design has been considerably eroded by alterations to the facility and by the many additions that have been constructed over time, which in some cases have encroached upon and obscured portions of the original construction and early additions.

At less than fifty years of age, the 1976 auditorium, library, gymnasium, and south wing additions, along with the 2009 Science Building, do not embody the level of architectural or historical importance necessary to support eligibility under Criterion Consideration G.

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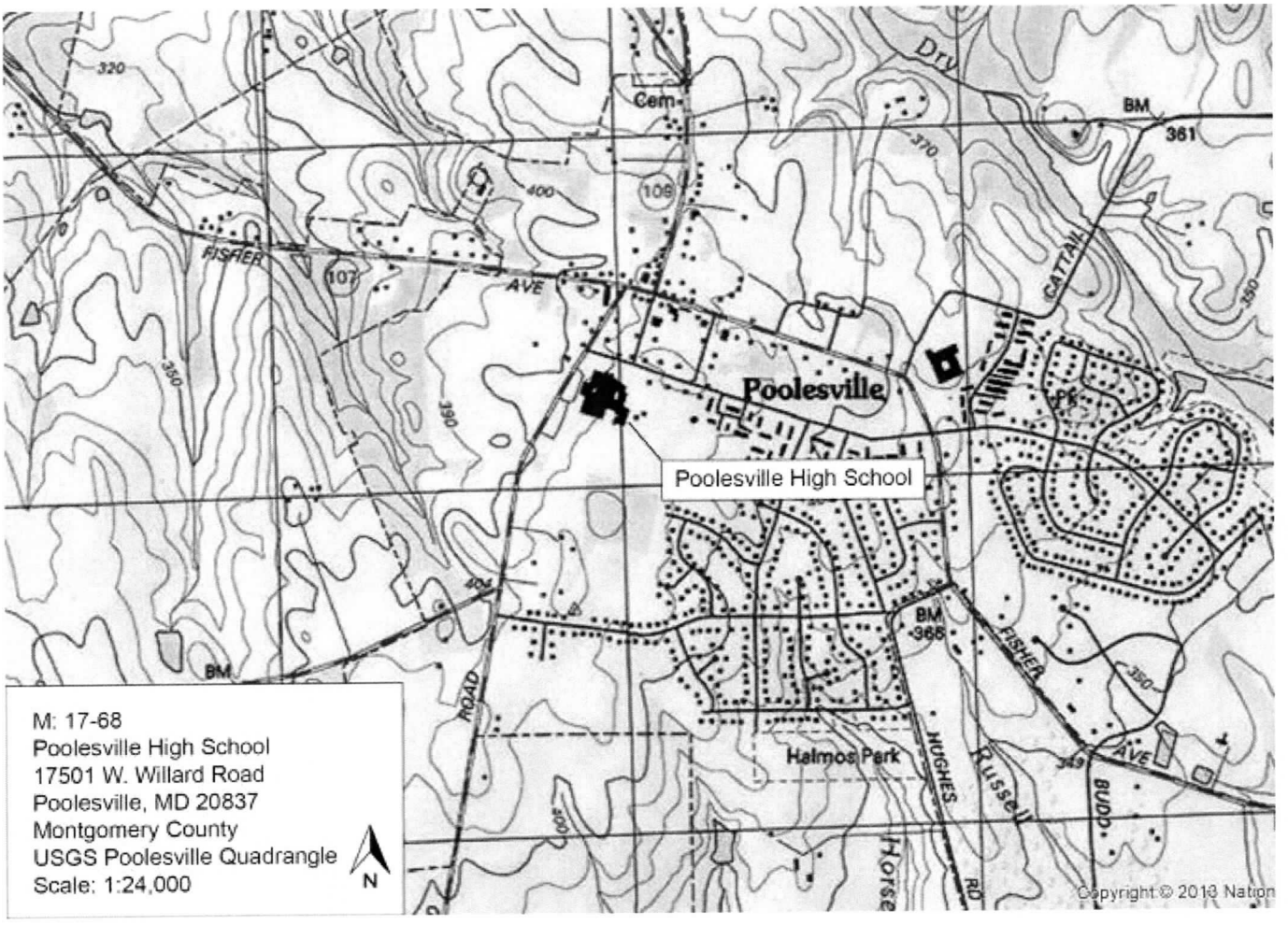
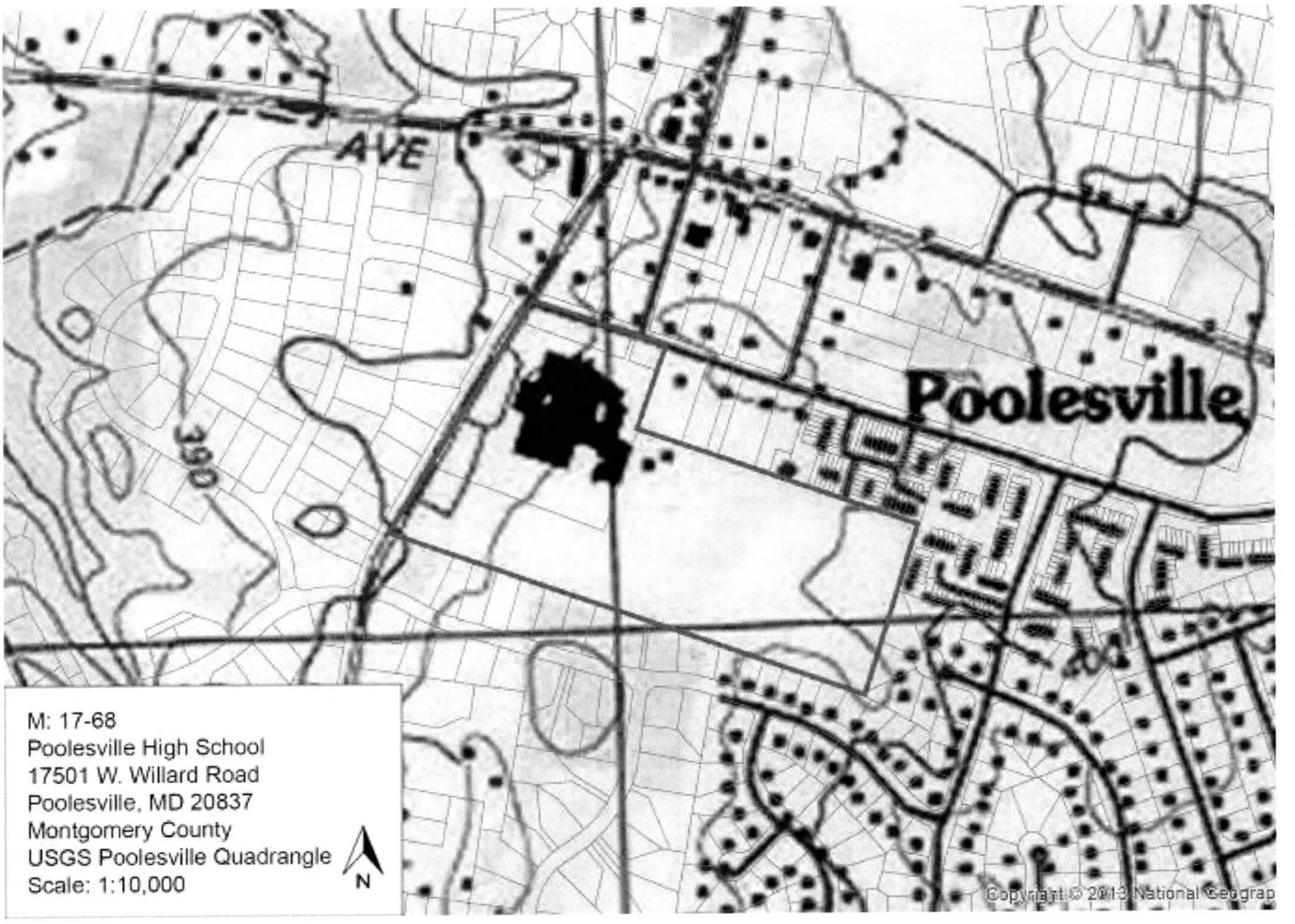
Additional Documentation



Detail from USGS Poolesville quadrangle, showing the location of Poolesville High School.



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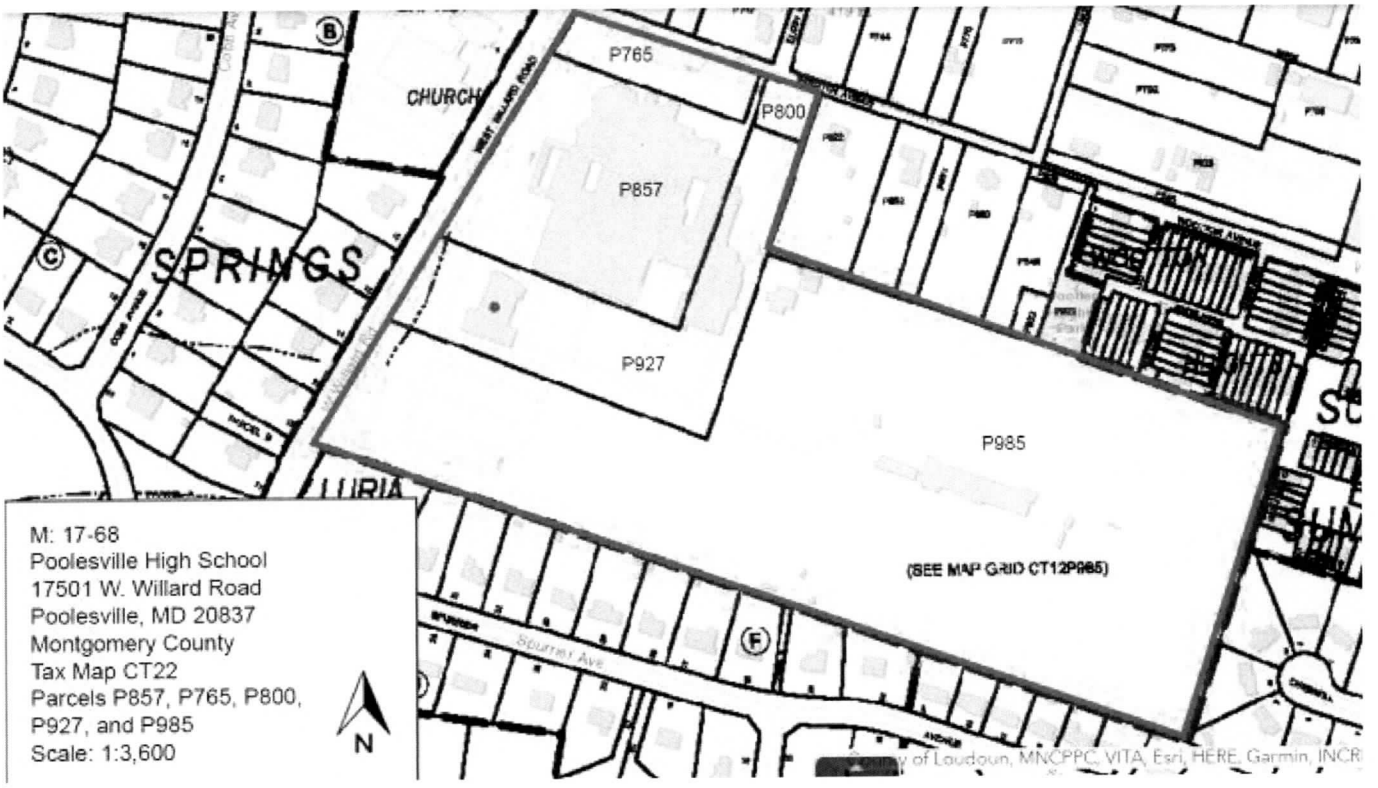
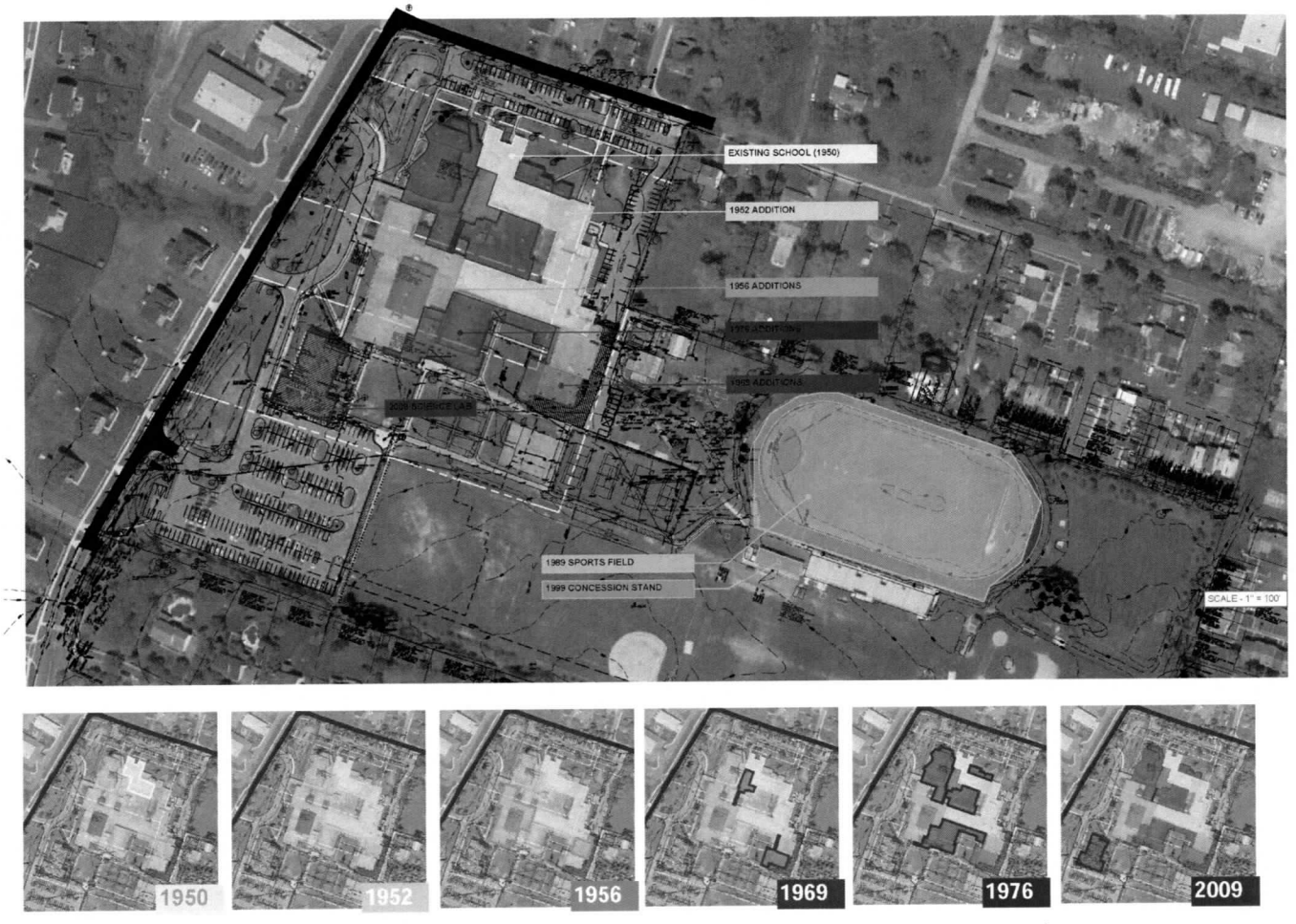
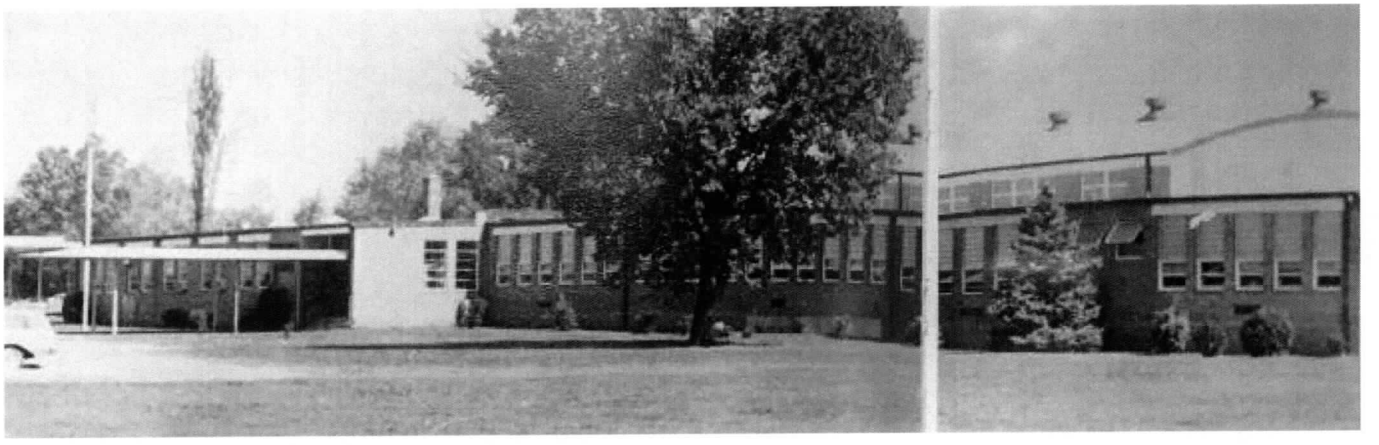


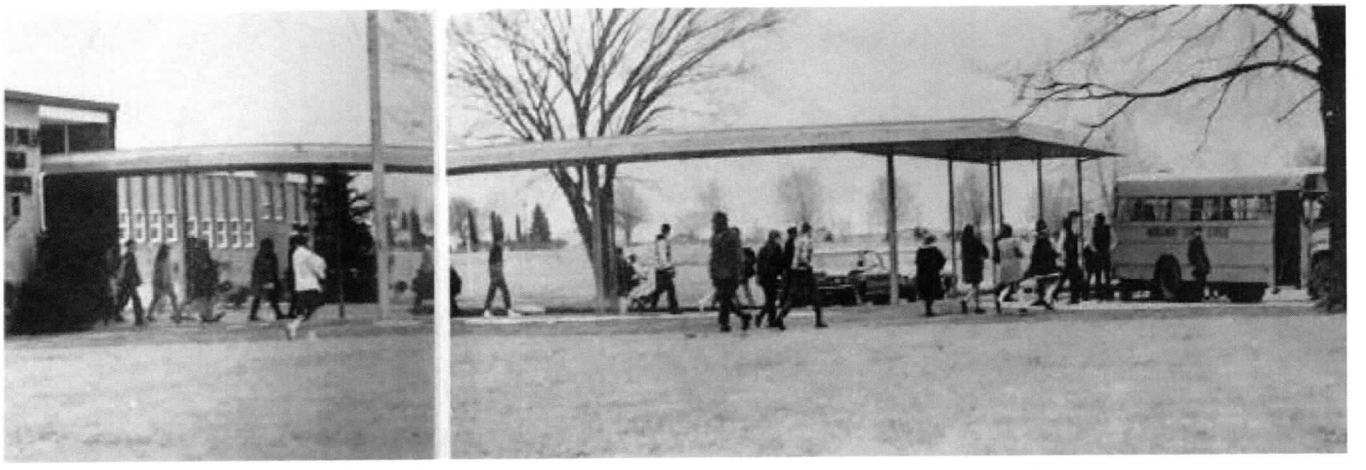
Detail from tax map CT22 showing the Poolesville High School property.



Aerial plan showing the building chronology of the school (VMDO Architects).



The front (west elevation) of Poolesville High School (1956 Addition) as it appeared c. 1968 (Montgomery County Historical Society).



Students leaving Poolesville High School c. 1968. View looking south from the west side of the school (Montgomery County Historical Society).

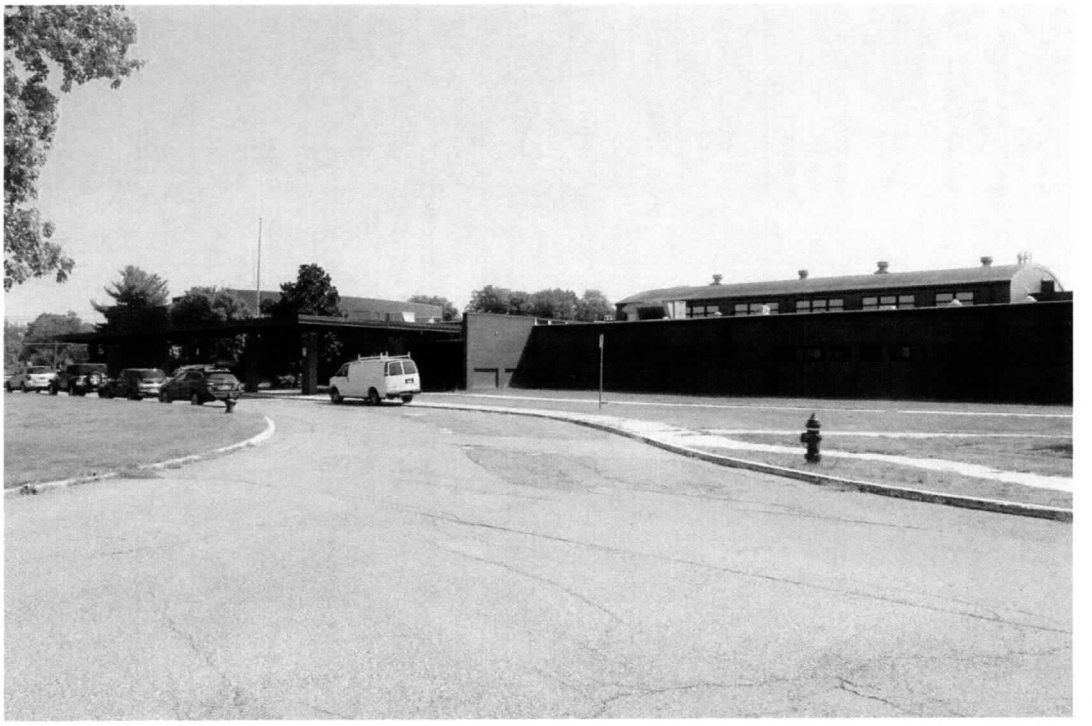


Photo 01 of 20: Main building, west elevation, 1956 addition, looking northeast.

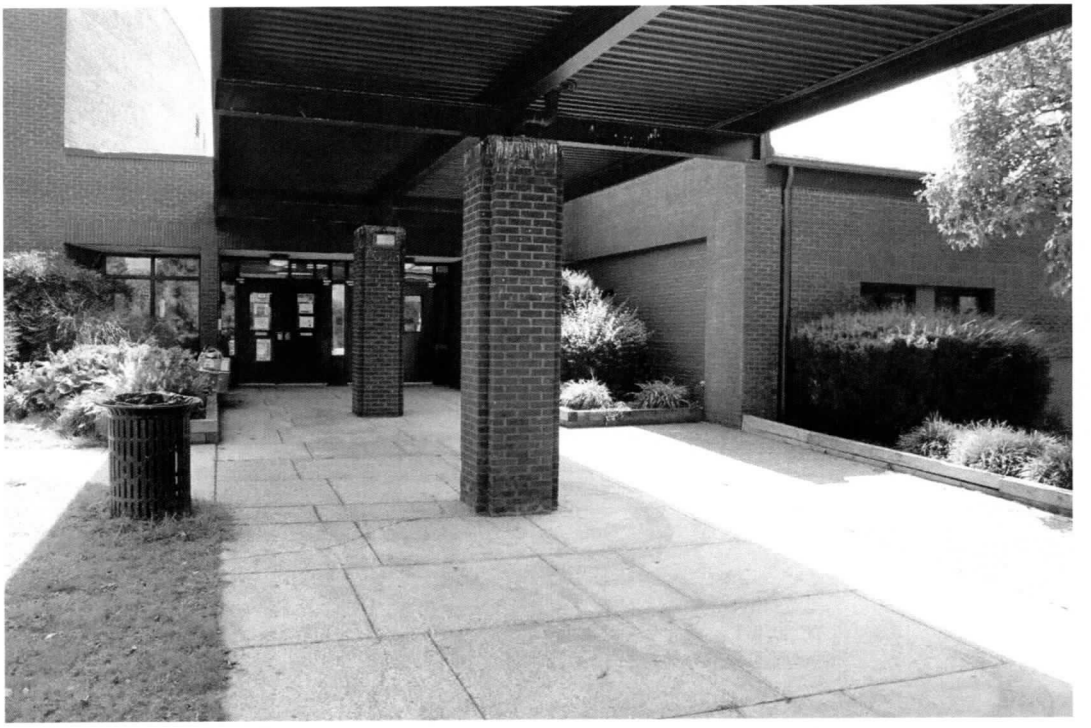


Photo 02 of 20: 1976 main entrance, west elevation, looking southeast. Right of main entrance is 1956 addition.



Photo 03 of 20: Main entrance (1976), west elevation, looking northeast.



Photo 04 of 20: Main building, west elevation, auditorium (1976), looking northeast.



Photo 05 of 20: Main building, north elevation, original 1950 building, looking south.



Photo 06 of 20: Main building, north elevation, part of 1976 addition, looking south.

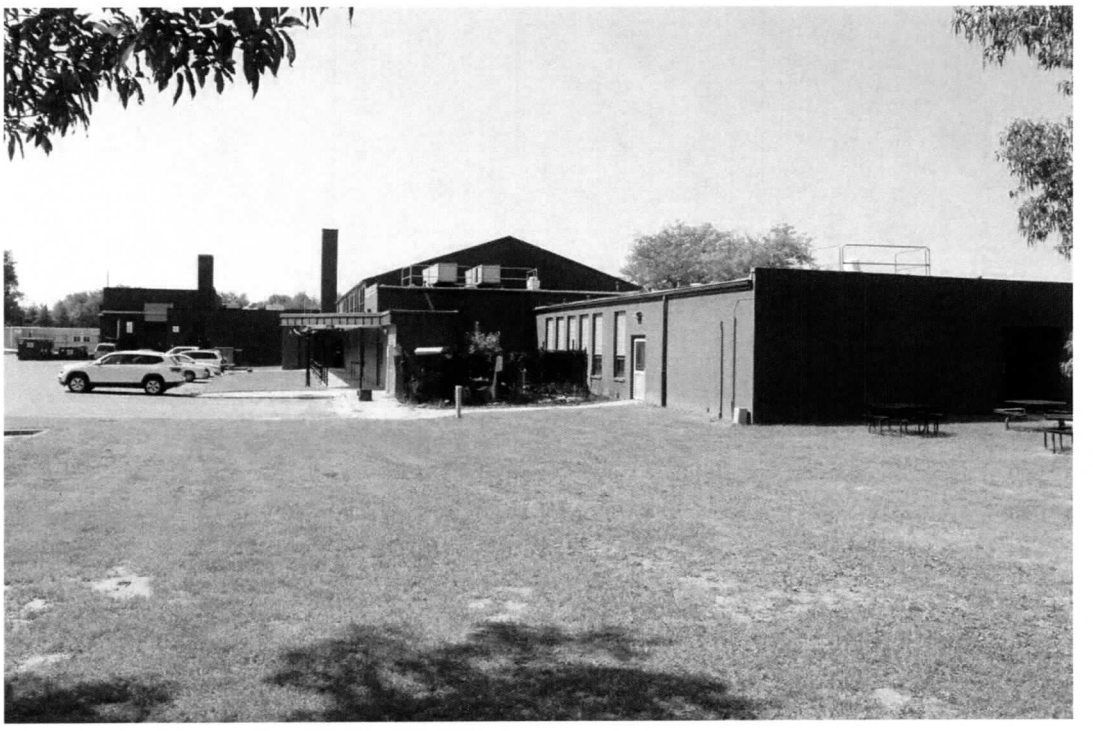


Photo 07 of 20: Main building, north elevation, 1952 addition, looking south.

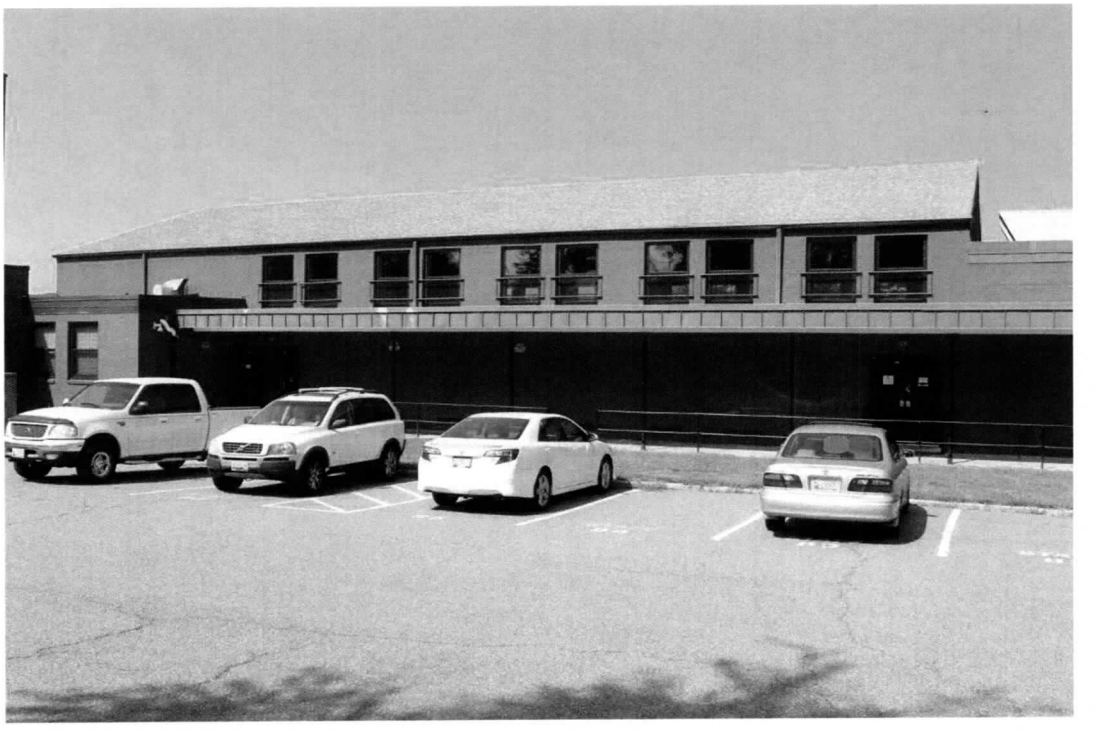


Photo 08 of 20: Main building, east elevation, 1952 addition, looking west.



Photo 09 of 20: Main building, east elevation, 1956 and 1969 additions, looking west.



Photo 10 of 20: Main building, south elevation, 1969 and 1976 additions, looking north.



Photo 11 of 20: 1976 gymnasium entrance, south elevation, looking north.



Photo 12 of 20: Main building, south elevation, 1956 addition (altered 1976) looking north.

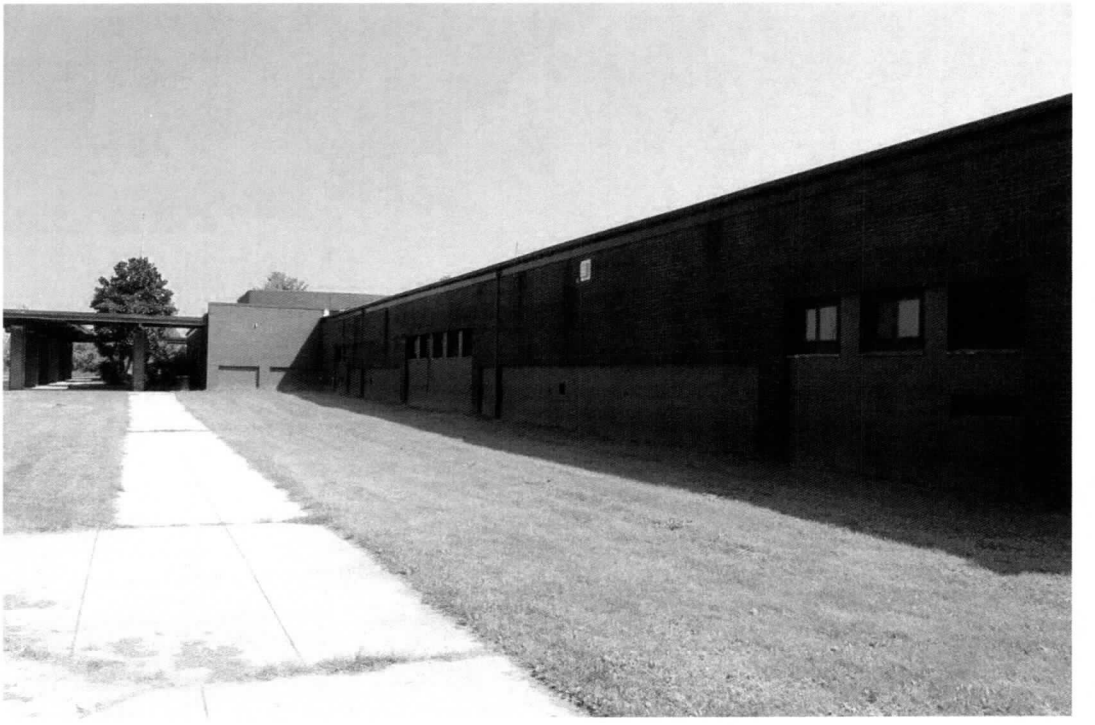


Photo 13 of 20: Main building, west elevation, 1956 addition (altered 1976) looking northeast.

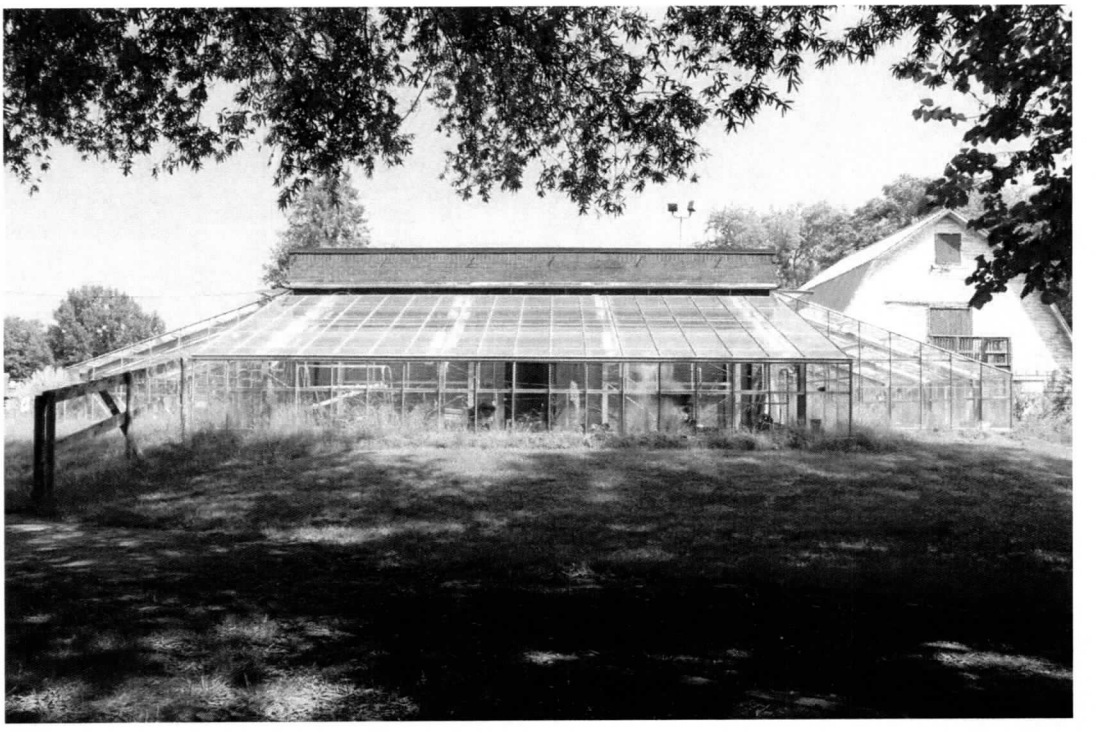


Photo 14 of 20: Greenhouse, south elevation, looking north.

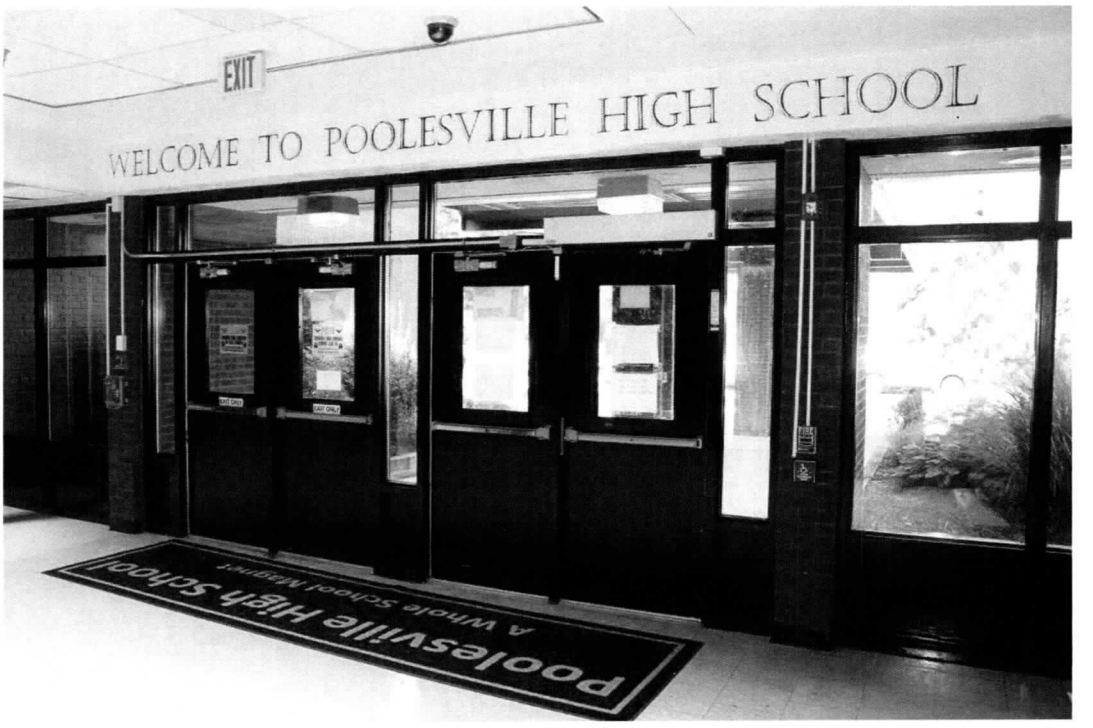


Photo 15 of 20: Main lobby, added with the 1976 addition, looking west.



Photo 16 of 20: Main building, typical corridor, looking east.



Photo 17 of 20: Main building, typical classroom.

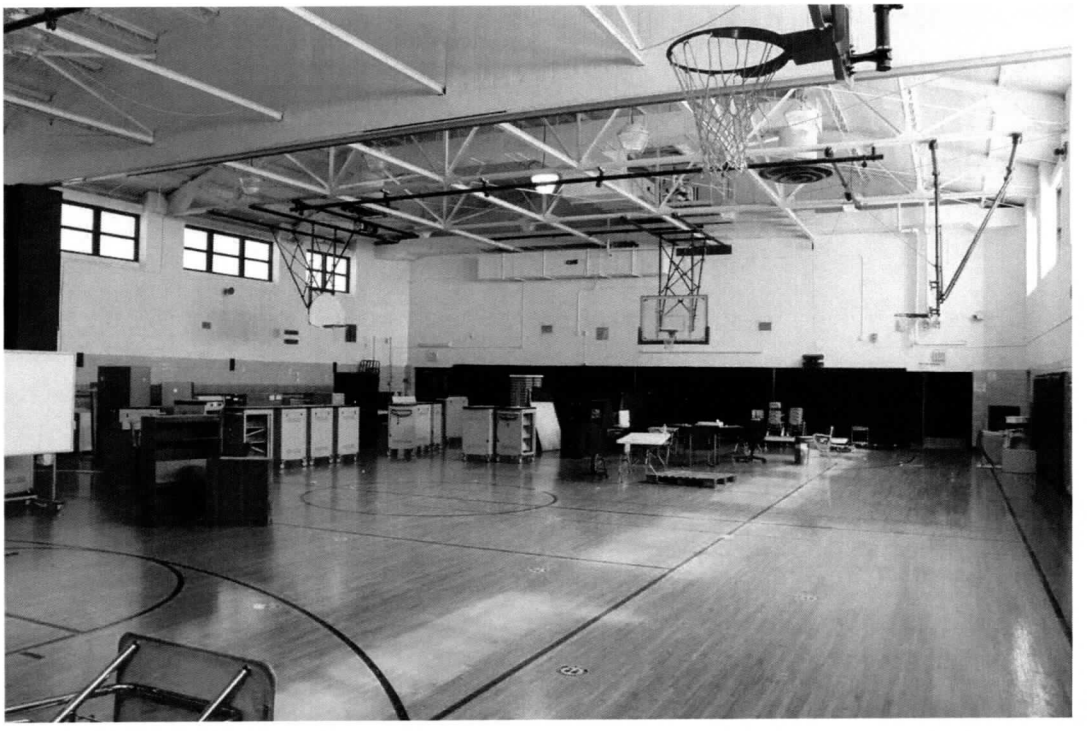


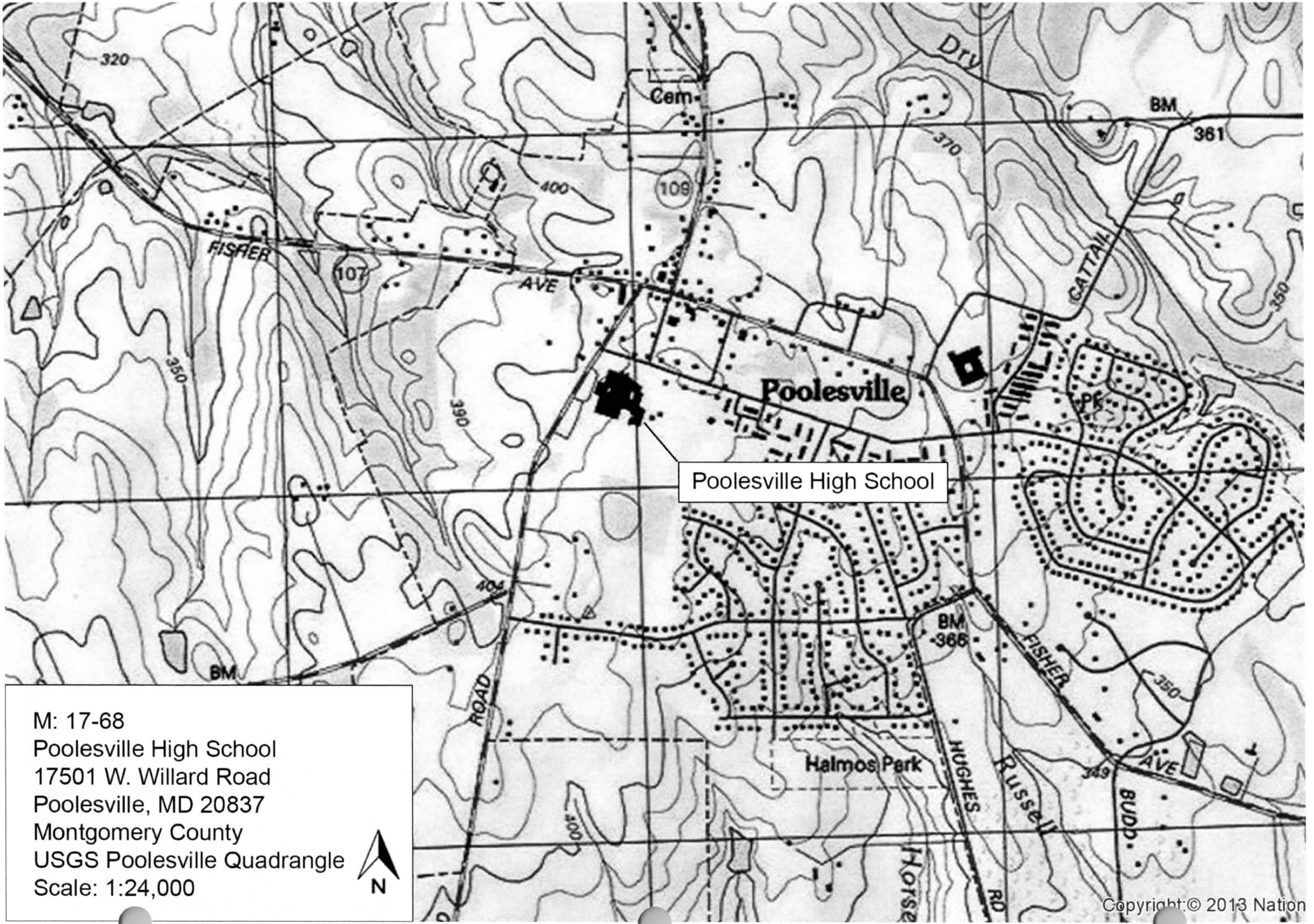
Photo 18 of 20: Main building, old gymnasium, looking northwest.



Photo 19 of 20: Main building, cafeteria, looking north.



Photo 20 of 20: Main building, auditorium, looking southeast.



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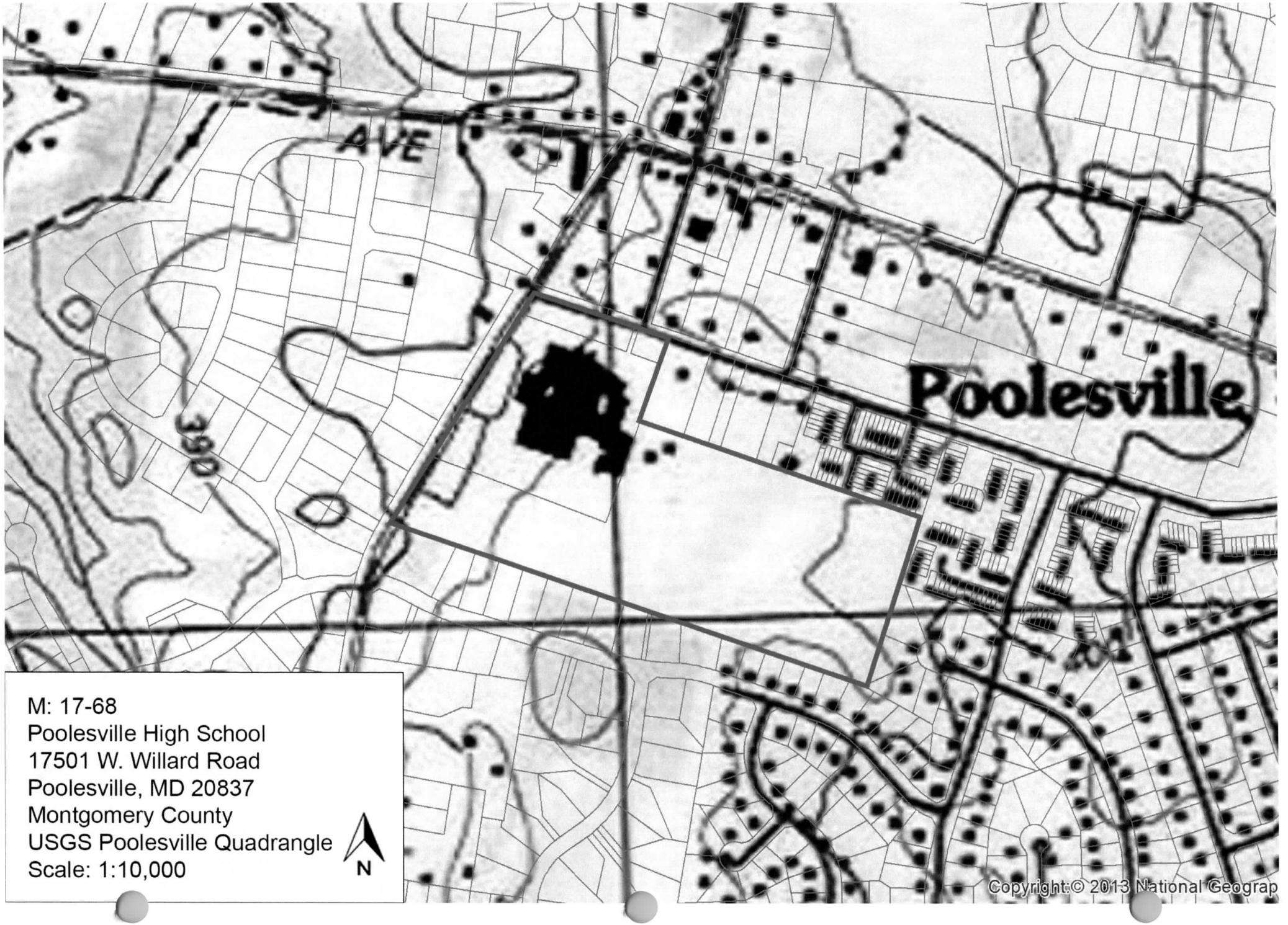
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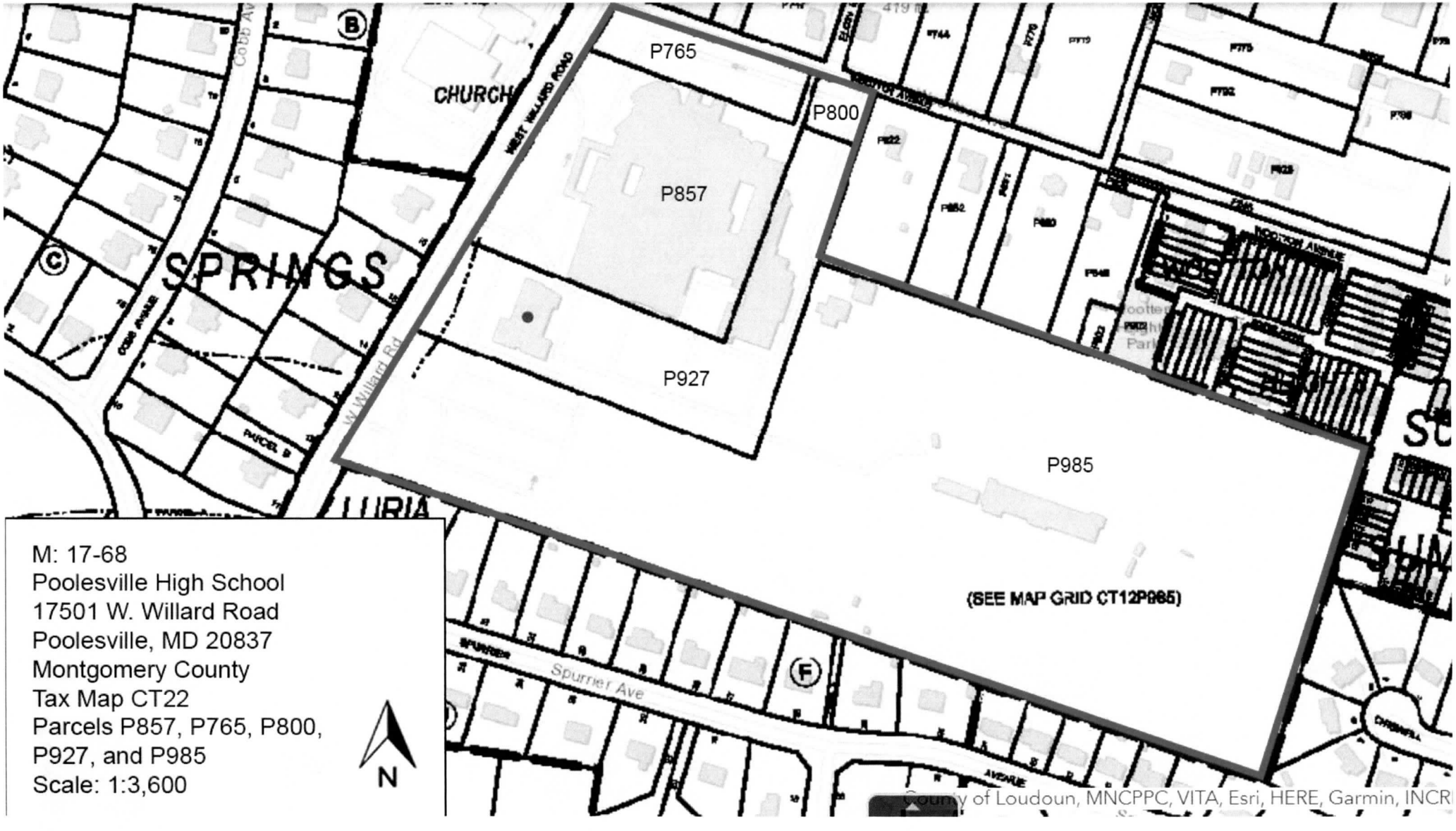

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Photo Log

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MIHP Name: Poolesville High School
County: Montgomery
Photographer: Benjamin Walker, EHT Traceries, Inc.
Date: August 27, 2021
Ink and Paper Combination: N/A
CD/DVD: Verbatim, DVD-R, Archival Gold

Image File Name	Description of View
M;17-68_2021-08-21_01	Main building, west elevation, 1956 addition, looking northeast.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_02	1976 main entrance, west elevation, looking southeast. Right of main entrance is 1956 addition.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_03	Main entrance (1976), west elevation, looking northeast.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_04	Main building, west elevation, auditorium (1976), looking northeast.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_05	Main building, north elevation, original 1950 building, looking south.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_06	Main building, north elevation, part of 1976 addition, looking south.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_07	Main building, north elevation, 1952 addition, looking south.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_08	Main building, east elevation, 1952 addition, looking west.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_09	Main building, east elevation, 1956 and 1969 additions, looking west.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_10	Main building, east and south elevations, 1956 and 1969 additions, looking northwest.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_11	Main building, south elevation, 1969 and 1976 additions, looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_12	Main building, south elevation, 1976 addition, looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_13	1976 gymnasium entrance, south elevation, looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_14	Main building, south elevation, 1956 addition (altered 1976) looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_15	Main building, west elevation, 1956 addition (altered 1976) looking northeast.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_16	Science building, north and west elevations, looking southeast.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_17	Greenhouse, south elevation, looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_18	Barn, south elevation, looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_19	Main lobby, added with the 1976 addition, looking west.

M;17-68_2021-08-21_20	Former main lobby, 1956 addition, looking west.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_21	Main building, typical corridor, looking east.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_22	Main building, typical corridor, looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_23	Main building, typical classroom.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_24	Main building, old gymnasium, looking northwest.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_25	Main building, new gymnasium, looking northeast.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_26	Main building, cafeteria, looking north.
M;17-68_2021-08-21_27	Main building, auditorium, looking southeast.