

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR:12

SURVEY NO.:B-3982

AREA:Madison Square-Oliver Historic District

MAGI NO.:0439823602

ADDRESS:1400 East Federal Street

CURRENT NAME:Oliver Multi-Purpose Center



BLOCK:1115 LOT:15

LOT SIZE:235' x 16'

HEIGHT:2 1/2

MATERIALS:Brick

CONDITION:Good

OWNER:Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

ADDRESS:

USE:Education

ACCESSIBLE:Yes

DESIGNATION:

LIBER/FOLIO:

HISTORIC NAME:Grammar School #20 (Sir Robert Eden School)

DATE:1890/1931

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:James B. Yeatman, Charles F. Nitsch, William F. Phillips--builders (1890)/Frederic A. Fletcher--architect (1931)

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION:

Grammar School #20 (1400 East Federal Street), constructed in 1890, is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Eden and Federal Sts. in the Oliver Planning District of east Baltimore, MD. An annex was added in 1931. The 1890 school is a 2 1/2 story gable roof brick building. There is a slightly protruding center pavilion with a battlement roofline. The first floor is 8 bays wide, the second is 5 bays. The windows are largely 6/6 wood sash windows. A granite belt course serves as the sills. The first floor windows are under masonry round arches with half-circle transoms, now filled in. The second floor windows are arranged in 3 groups of 3, with single windows between the groups. All but the center group has granite lintels. The second floor windows, outside the pavilion, are under segmental arches with herring bone brick pattern tympanums. There are two semi-elliptical arch entryways. The center entrance was the girls', the one to the north the boys'. There is a dentiled metal cornice above the second floor. At the top floor is a diocletian window with a granite keystone, to each side of the window are engaged columns. The 1931 addition is 19 bays wide, 2 stories tall. A corniced stone window enframingent joins the first and second floor 6/6 windows that are grouped together in fives. The door is located off center to the north. It has a raising sun fanlight and is enclosed in a stone pilastered surround with melotypes and a cornice. The roof line has three stone false balustrades. There is a cupola atop the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

AREA:Architecture

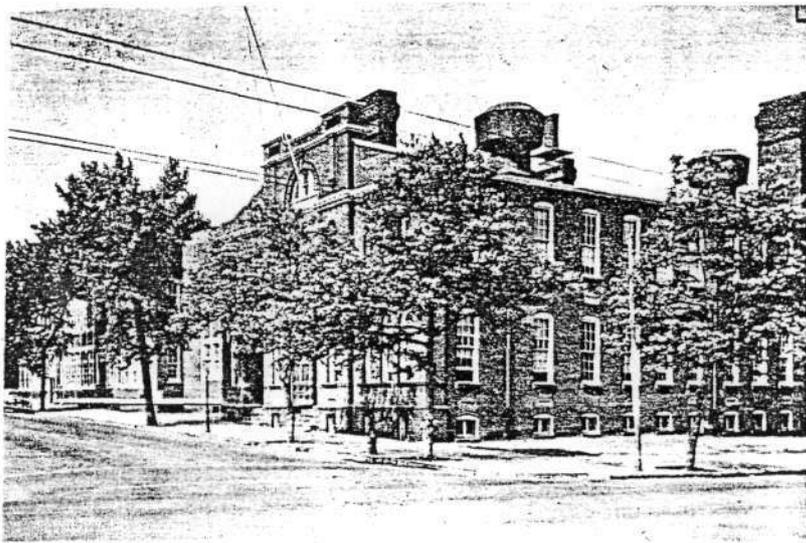
LEVEL:Local

As a neighborhood school #20 has played an important role in the history of Madison Square-Oliver. It was built to handle the educational needs of the community's growing population. Before the erection of this school Grammar and Primary Schools #20 shared the same building at the corner of Preston and Eden Sts. with two nearby houses rented to handle the overflow. Reports written before the school was finished state it was going to be too small to handle the increasing number of students. However, it was not until 1931 that an addition was built. The annex could hold 360 students and doubled the classroom number to 32. The 1890 City directory identifies the trades of the men listed on the contract to build the school as: Yeatman--builder, Nitsch--brick manufacturer, Philips--black laborer.

SOURCES:Annual Report...Commissioners of Public Schools.1888,89,90,1930,31,32;
Annual Report ... Inspector of Buildings. 1890; Balt. City Archives RG3,
Series 1, Box 107, 1889, 111 and Microfilm 111.

SURVEYOR AND DATE:Mary K. Mannix, August 1987

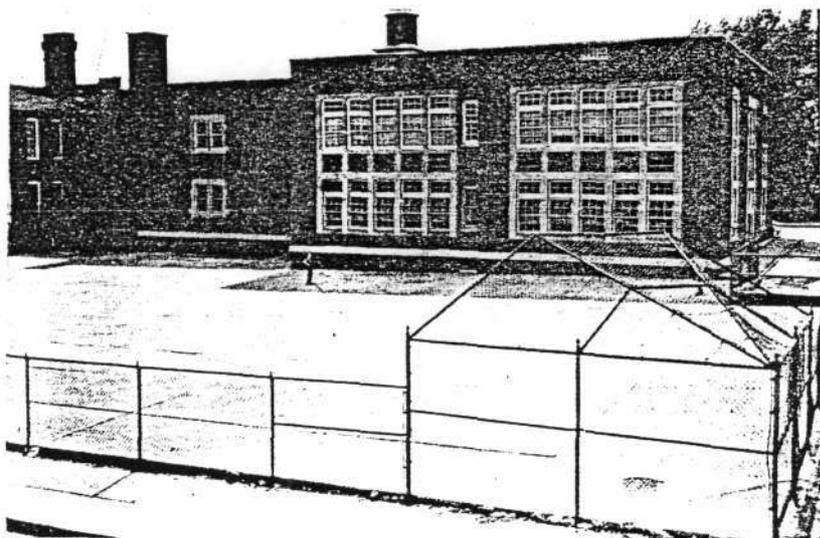
Grammar School #20
1400 East Federal Street
B-3982



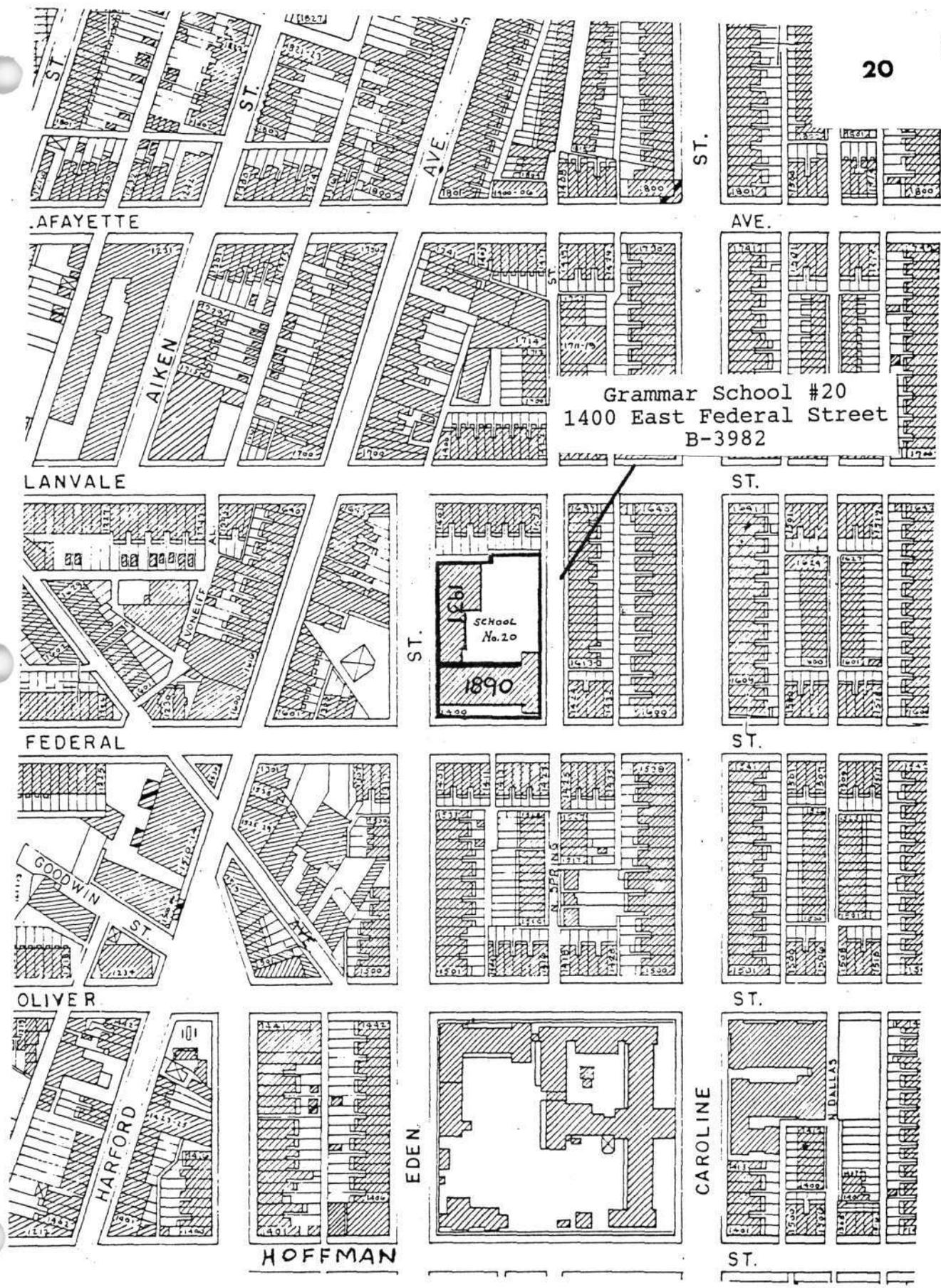
Northeast corner of Eden and Federal Streets, older section of school in foreground.



Spring & Federal Sts., northwest corner of intersection.



Playground to rear of building along Spring St.
Newer part of building at right.



Grammar School #20
 1400 East Federal Street
 B-3982



Grammar School No. 20

B-3982

1400 East Federal Street

Baltimore, Maryland

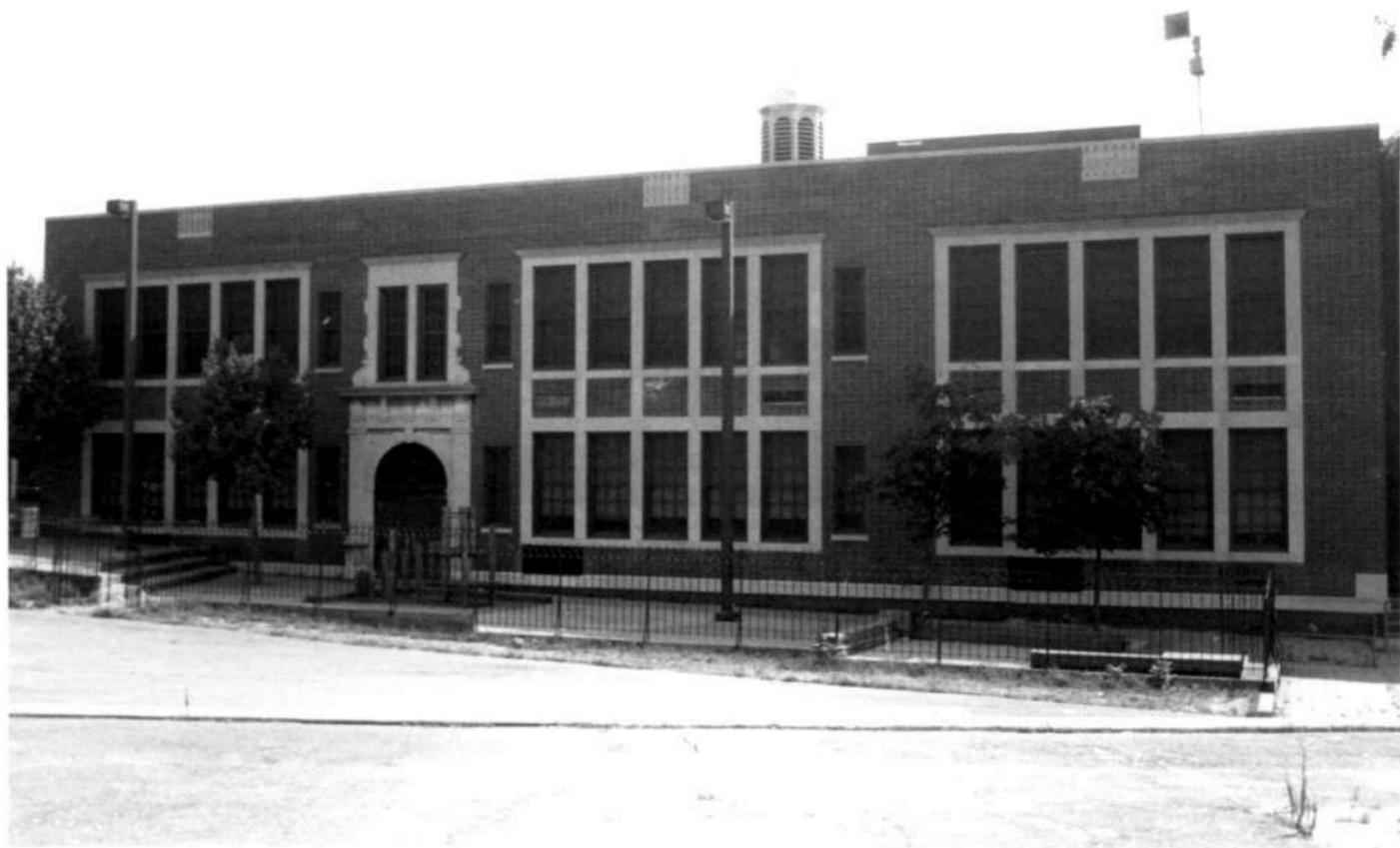
Photographer: Janet Davis

July 1987

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

West elevation

1/2



Grammar School No. 20

B-3982

1400 East Federal Street

Baltimore, Maryland

Photographer: Janet Davis

July 1987

Neg. loc: Md. SHPO

Addition, west elevation

2/2