NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Baltimore City College

other names B-5083

2. Location

street & number 3220 The Alameda ☐ not for publication

city or town Baltimore ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore City code 510 zip code 21218

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: 5-12-03

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Late Gothic Revival (Collegiate Gothic)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone
roof composition
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

Baltimore City College is a 360 foot long, 300 foot wide, stone, Collegiate Gothic high school building featuring a 150 foot tall central tower that dominates the surrounding skyline. Known as the "Castle on the Hill," the building stands on 34 acres of land in northeast Baltimore in close proximity to the former Eastern High School, the site of the recently-demolished Memorial Stadium and Lake Montebello. The main structure is three stories high, constructed of random rubble with Indiana limestone trim. The exterior features multi-paned metal sash windows set into gothic arches, whimsical carved stone details, buttresses, an arcade, and a crenellated roofline. The plan of the building is a large rectangle with two courtyards flanking a central auditorium. Brick walls of the interior courtyard are punctuated by a series of bowed windows. The front section of the school facing north houses school offices, a faculty lounge and a two-level library. Classrooms located on the east, south and west elevations and along the courtyard take advantage of banks of windows for light and ventilation. A swimming pool, locker rooms, cafeteria, music rooms and workshop spaces are located in the basement. Two major stair towers are situated at either end of the front facade. Four, secondary stairs are located at the rear of the building. Extant original interior finishes include black and gray terrazzo floors in the main hall, a lobby space with limestone walls and flagstone flooring, plaster walls, vaulted ceilings, and decorative wood trim in the library. When the building was renovated in 1978, brightly painted metal classroom doors, modern school lockers, dropped acoustical tile ceilings and some newer light fixtures altered the interior. At the same time, a beige brick gymnasium addition was attached to the building's southwest corner. Despite these alterations, the building maintains its historic integrity with the preservation of significant interior spaces and the overall original appearance of the exterior. Athletic fields, asphalt walkways, mature trees, two parking lots and stone retaining walls surround the school building. A one-story high brick heating plant with square chimney stack and some gothic details complements the building on the east.

General Description:

The dominating feature of the Baltimore City College building is the asymmetrical central tower. The main entrance to the school is set into a series of receding gothic arches at the base of the tower. Set into the entryway are a pair of double steel and glass security doors with a covered transom area surmounted by a Gothic style light fixture. "The Baltimore City College Founded AD 1839," is carved into the limestone surround in Old English Style lettering. Stone buttresses flanking the entrance recede as the tower rises. A large gothic arch is filled with tri-

partite, multi-pane windows surmounted by intersecting tracery. On the hood of the arch are decorative carvings depicting the faces of Riggin T. Buckler and George Corner Fenhagen, the building's architects. Above the central arch, two openings are set into segmental arches above projecting balconies. At the stone band course above these openings are three whimsical carvings depicting an imp-like figure fighting a parrot (the symbol of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, City's arch rival), an imp-like figure hugging an owl (the symbol of wisdom) and another face (possibly a headmaster or principal) holding a scroll. Rising above the main body of the school, the tower features a double pointed arch with two pairs of louvered openings surmounted by open pairs of arches with geometric tracery. Limestone trim, band courses and quoins complete the tower walls. An octagonal turret on the northwest corner of the tower with narrow windows and battlements rises to a pinnacle.

Enclosing a spiral stairway and attached to the main tower on the east, is a smaller three story tower featuring narrow window openings on the lower lever and an airy limestone cap with arched openings. The tower is decorated with carvings of squirrels holding acorns (a symbol of preparing for the future) and the Latin inscription, "Dimidium Scientiae Prudens Quaestio," a quote from the thirteenth century philosopher, Roger Bacon, meaning "half of knowledge is asking the right questions." A bronze memorial plaque honoring Baltimore City College students who died in World War I is set into the base of this smaller tower.

Arcades with receding gothic arches flank the central tower on the first floor level. The eastern arcade is six bays wide, while the western arcade is five bays wide. An enclosed stair adjoining the tower on the west breaks the symmetry of the front facade. Above the first level arcade are large gothic arches filled with pairs of multi-pane windows surmounted by intersecting tracery. These windows provide light into the two-level library. Stone buttresses separate each bay. Set back from either end of the front facade, are the main stair towers.

The eastern and western elevations of the building have five bays of banded windows set into limestone pointed arches. Stair towers are located at each end of these elevations. Stone buttresses divide each bay that feature three pairs of multi-paned windows. The windows are set into three tiers of six panes on each level ending in arches on the top floor. Above a limestone band course, is a crenellated roof line. The northern stair towers are wider and more pronounced featuring tri-partite windows, as compared to the double windows on the southern stair towers.

The rear, southern elevation is styled similarly to the eastern and western elevations, except that windows are grouped in pairs in the center nine bays flanked by stair towers. To either end of the stair towers are elongated bays with four pairs of windows ending in a single bay with tri-partite windows. Music and shop classes are located in an expanded basement

section that protrudes from the center of the rear elevation. Stadium bleachers stand in front of blocked windows of this building section.

Attached to the southwestern corner of the building is the new gymnasium built in 1978. It is a beige brick, windowless structure relieved with some brick buttresses and three entryways set into segmental arches. The buttresses and arches are an attempt to blend this new structure with the rest of the building. Directly east of school is a one-story, brick power plant with a tall square chimney. It features groups of windows and slightly pointed arched openings.

Baltimore City College stands at the top of a hill and fronts on terraced slopes. A modern sculpture stands on the front lawn. Athletic fields surround the building with two parking areas on either end. At the rear is the main athletic field with track and bleachers. A newer stone elementary school building, not included in this nomination, stands at the intersection of Loch Raven Boulevard and Gorsuch Avenue at the original southwestern edge of the campus.

The main entrance leads into a sunken lobby featuring flagstone floors, limestone walls and a vaulted ceiling. Within an adjacent to the lobby are display cases, original wood work and painted murals attesting to the grand traditions of the school. One display case features books published by former students of the school. Stepping up from the lobby the main hall features black and gray terrazzo floors. To either side of the main hall are school offices, a faculty lounge, health suite and conference rooms. The main auditorium directly across from the lobby features a large skylight. Originally exposed to naturally light filtered into the auditorium, but the skylight has since been roofed over, and it is now lit artificially light from above. The auditorium also had a balcony that was removed during the 1978 renovation of the building.

The arched hallways flanking the auditorium have new lighting and partially dropped acoustical tile ceilings. Windows with stained glass panes look out into the two courtyards. The courtyards have brick walls punctuated by arched windows on one side and projecting bays of banded windows along another wall allowing abundant light into classrooms, offices and seminar rooms. Within the courtyards are additional carvings of the city and state seal and the Latin motto of City College "Palmam Qui Meruit Ferat," that the school translates as "Honor to One Who Earns It."

The library takes up two levels on the second and third floors of the front of the building. It features decorative wood paneling, tall arched windows and wood beams. Book shelving flanks a central reading room, and a stage with seating area is located one end of the library. Modern lighting and carpeting contrast with original building elements that have been preserved.

Most of the modern student lockers are located in the southern hallway that has been altered with a dropped acoustical tile ceiling. Entrances to classrooms retain original wood trim but the original doors have been replaced with brightly painted steel doors and the transoms have been filled. Classrooms also have dropped acoustical tile ceilings and either tile floors or carpeting. The main stairways are well lit and separated from halls by multi-paned fire glass partitions.

The basement contains a large pool on the west, a cafeteria along the eastern courtyard, locker rooms in the center (below the auditorium), and music and shop rooms on the southern end. The 1978 gymnasium includes a main gym with bleachers, as well as an auxiliary gym. This addition is constructed of cinder block walls with an exterior brick facing.

Baltimore City College largely retains its original exterior appearance from 1928, when the "Castle of the Hill" was first built. Significant interior spaces and details have been preserved while modernizing the structure to meet modern school standards.

Baltimore City College B-5083
Name of Property:

Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1928-1953

Significant Dates

1928 School Built

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Buckler and Fenhagen, architects
J. Henry Miller, contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Summary Statement of Significance:

Baltimore City College is historically significant under National Register Criterion A. As the third oldest high school in the nation, it has played an important role in public education since 1839. For its first fifty years, at previous locations, it was the only high school in Baltimore exclusively for boys. As the demand for secondary education increased in the early twentieth century, community-based high schools were built, yet Baltimore City College remained an elite high school providing a classical education for the city's best students. In the latter half of the twentieth century, Baltimore City College was in the forefront of issues regarding the racial integration of the school system, open enrollment, and all male schools.

Baltimore City College is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C. The building was designed as a result of an architectural competition among Maryland's finest architects and was the most expensive school built at the time. It is Baltimore's best example of Collegiate Gothic design featuring many distinctive details unique among local high school buildings.

The period of significance, 1928-1953, extends from the date of original construction of the building to a date 50 years in the past, in accordance with current National Register conventions.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Early History of Baltimore City College

In March 1839, Baltimore's first public high school was established. It was preceded by English High School of Boston (1821) and Central High School of Philadelphia (1838) and is considered to be the third oldest public high school in the country. [1] Original just called the High School, it provided an education to the best white male students selected from Baltimore's public elementary schools.

The school began with forty-three students under the guidance of Professor Nathan C. Brooks in rented space on Courtland Street, near the present day Preston Gardens. By 1843, the school had grown to over 100 students and moved several times before settling in to the Assembly Rooms at Fayette and Holliday streets. It stayed at that location for the next thirty years. [2]

In 1844, two female high schools were established, Eastern and Western. The name of the boy's high school was changed to Male High School and again in 1850 to Central High School. When the course of study was extended to five years, the name was changed to

Baltimore City College.[3] Although the five-year course was short-lived, the high school's name became permanent and continues to confuse those who assume that City College offers post-secondary education.

When the Assembly Rooms burned in 1873, the Mayor and City Council appropriated funds to construct a new school building specifically for Baltimore City College. The building was completed at Howard Street near Centre Street in 1875. The school housed 421 students during the first year at this location. Ten years later, a second male high school was established to provide training in the mechanical arts. Originally known as the Manual Training School, it became the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, a fitting rival to Baltimore City College. In 1885, a "Colored High School" (later to be named Douglass High School) was established for Baltimore's separate school system for African Americans.

In 1892, the Howard Street building was weakened by the construction of the Howard Street Tunnel for the B&O Railroad. It was condemned and demolished to make way for a new City College building that was completed on the same site in 1899. Between 1900 and 1928, Baltimore City College grew from a school of 600 students to 2,500, necessitating a new building. [4]

The Castle on the Hill

After years of overcrowding, in 1924 efforts began in earnest to replace the Howard Street building. A site was selected and an architectural competition was held to design the new Baltimore City College. Warren Powers Laird, the dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Fine Arts, was the advisor to the competition. The jury was composed of Harvey W. Corbett, Paul Phillipe Cret and Milton B. Medary, Jr. [5] Mr. Corbett was one of the designers of Rockefeller Center and won an architectural competition locally to design the Maryland Institute Building on Mount Royal Avenue. Mr. Cret designed Washington's Pan American Union Building. Mr. Medary designed the Bok Tower in Lake Wales Florida.

Baltimore's most significant architectural firms of the early twentieth century entered the competition. They included: Parker, Thomas and Rice, Edward H. Glidden, Wyatt and Nolting, Joseph Evans Sperry, Lawrence Hall Fowler, Edward L. Palmer, Lucius R. White, Theodore W. Pietsch, Smith and May, and Clyde and Nelson Friz. Approximately 20 plans were received and the winning entry was announced on June 2, 1924. The Collegiate Gothic design from the firm of Buckler and Fenhagen was selected. [6]

Mr. Corbett is quoted in the Baltimore Sun of June 2, 1924, stating his opinion that the new high school undoubtedly would be the finest in the United States. "The winning design is head and shoulders above the other plans which were considered by the jury...The winning plan took advantage of the site better than any other plan submitted. Rare skill was utilized in keeping the natural beauty of the school setting by preserving nearly all the trees and allowing for the natural contour of the land."[7]

Riggin Buckler and G. Corner Fenhagen both attended school in Baltimore. Appropriately, Mr. Fenhagen was a Baltimore City College alumnus. He later graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1905 and worked for the New York firm of Pell and Corbett from 1906-1911. Fenhagen later became an assistant professor of architectural design at the University of Pennsylvania in 1923, under Paul Cret. Although Corbett and Cret were judges of this competition, the entries were only numbered and the judges did not know the name of the designers.

Mr. Buckler graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1905 and studied at MIT. He worked for McKim, Mead and White for three years, returning to Baltimore in 1910 to enter partnership with Howard Sill. After working in the Philippines for several years, Mr. Fenhagen joined the firm upon his return to Baltimore in 1917. The firm was renamed Buckler and Fenhagen in 1921.[8]

Buckler and Fenhagen won a competition designing the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. They had designed two other schools in Baltimore an addition to Pimlico Elementary School and the Charles Carroll of Carrolton School. In later years, the firm of Buckler & Fenhagen took on additional partners to become Buckler, Fenhagen, Meyer and Ayers. The successor firm, Ayers/Saint/Gross, today specializes in college buildings and campus design.

Baltimore City College was designed to be a group of three school buildings. An elementary and junior high school to be built north of the high school would form a quadrangle with an open end facing the Alameda and 33rd Street. Extensions to City College in front of the stair towers would allow for building to be expanded to the north reinforcing the quadrangle design. Neither the other school building nor the extensions were every built. An elementary school was later added on the southwest corner of the campus, but functions separately from the high school. The original rendering also called for a tower clock that was never completed.

The Collegiate Gothic design for Baltimore City College was inspired by the buildings of Princeton University, dating from the turn of the twentieth century. The revival of Gothic

architecture for university buildings in America hearkened back to the buildings of Oxford University dating from the thirteenth century. Medieval designs called for ornate carvings and this was accomplished at the new high school building in a whimsical manner. The carvings of the architects, Latin inscriptions, and symbols relating to school rivalries and education are unique in Baltimore school architecture.

Baltimore City College was an extravagant design built of stone; most city schools were brick buildings. The ornate carvings, arcade and central tower, that was more ornamental than functional, are design elements that distinguish Baltimore City College from other high schools. The vaulted hallways, library space with cathedral like windows, memorial plaque to World War I veterans and stained glass evoke the proud tradition of the school and its elite status.

The campus-like setting was far removed from the urban environs of Poly at North and Calvert, Eastern at North and Broadway, Western at McCulloh and Lafayette and Douglass at Baker and Carey. Although Baltimore's Forest Park High School, completed in 1924, was also designed in the Collegiate Gothic style in a suburban setting and also included a tower; it was built of brick and lacked the design details of City. The old Forest Park has since been demolished and replaced with a newer building.

Baltimore City College cost over two million dollars, far above any Baltimore City school at the time. The swimming pool was "the second largest indoor pool in the east, the United States Naval Academy pool being slightly larger."[9] Even the one-story, brick power plant just east of the school conformed to the Gothic design of the school. It housed shop classes in addition to the heating equipment.

City College paved the way for a new type of high school in Baltimore. Within a decade of its construction, Eastern and Western high schools built anew in more suburban settings. Poly added a modern wing to its older North Avenue building. Although these newer buildings featured modern amenities, none surpassed Baltimore City College in quality of design. Patterson Park High School, today Hampstead Hill Middle School, is noteworthy as an early modern design; however, the "Castle on the Hill" stands alone at the pinnacle of local school architecture.

Baltimore City College's Golden Age

In a new building at a new location, Baltimore City College flourished. The new building was opened on April 10, 1928 (next year will mark its 75th anniversary). The "Castle on

the Hill" has been the home of the Baltimore City College for more years than any of its earlier locations.

The construction of the school marked a new era of school reform. In 1926, City added a special accelerated course, the famous "A" course to its curriculum. "To a large extent this course with its strong emphasis on languages and mathematics, represented a continuation of the program of the classical City College."[10] It allowed students to complete five years of work in four years. In addition to the "A" course, a regular academic curricula was provided, as well as, three commercial curricula for college preparatory business, general business and stenography.

Enrollment climbed rapidly, peaking in 1937 at 3,215 students. With an enlarged enrollment and a lower attrition rate, City had enough students to support a variety of activities. The *Collegian* newspaper began in 1929.[11] The Student Advisory Council, an early form of student government, started in 1938. Athletics at City reached a peak with 12 state championships in different sports in the 1930s. The annual City-Poly football game, the oldest high school football rivalry in the nation, was played at the Baltimore Stadium and later Memorial Stadium, attracting over 20,000 fans in peak years.

City remained a top school academically and improved in time. In 1939, 32% of its graduates went on to college; by 1959 the number of college bound had risen to 59%. H. L. Mencken said on one occasion that he "would rather speak at City than at any other school, even Johns Hopkins, because he found the boys intelligent and questions backed by careful study."[12]

With high enrollment, there was a greater diversity among its student body. Although community based high schools now existed, students from different backgrounds and neighborhoods came together at City to form a unique atmosphere. The religious proportions of City students remained relatively stable from 1941 to 1960 at 45% Protestant, 35% Jewish and 20% Catholic.[13] Although all white and male from 1928-1954, the student body was as diverse as allowed by law in a segregated era. In 1939, the principal of City, Dr. Phillip H. Edwards, wrote "The New Baltimore City College, true to its traditions, is a cross-section of democracy. Our boys study together, play together, eat together, work, in and out of class, together, and best of all come to understand one another, itself the greatest single lesson of the democratic state; a lesson which we, their elders, have not, I think, learned half so well."[14]

In 1954, with the Supreme Court ruling in Brown vs. Board of Education, Baltimore's "separate but equal" policy came to an end and public schools were opened to all races. Only a handful of African American students enrolled at City in September 1954. While protests took place at other schools, most notably a walkout of 500 students at Southern, no protests took place

at City College. Over the next ten years, the black population of the school grew to approximately half of the student body and the school was a model of integration. Sun columnist, Michael Olesker, writes, "I reveled in the City College experience, where almost everyone seemed to come from a minority background of some sort. Wasn't that the working model for the entire city? Didn't we see progress?" [15]

Baltimore City College Hall of Fame

The significance of Baltimore City College as an educational institution can also be seen in the students that it produced. There are over 150 members in Baltimore City College's Hall of Frame. The majority attended school at the "Castle on the Hill." Students who attended school here have gone of to the highest ranks of leadership in Baltimore City and the State of Maryland.

Two future governors attended Baltimore City College at this location: Marvin Mandel and William Donald Schaefer; as did Lt. Governor Melvin Steinberg. Schaefer was also Mayor of Baltimore for fifteen years from (1971-1986). The next elected Mayor of Baltimore was Kurt L. Schmoke, another City alumnus. Kurt Schmoke held office for twelve years (1987-1999). The current Baltimore County Executive, Charles "Dutch" Ruppersberger, graduated from City, as did the two current members of the House of Representatives from Baltimore City, Benjamin Cardin and Elijah Cummings. Many of Baltimore's outstanding lawyers attended the "Castle on the Hill," including eight District or Circuit Court judges, among them Solomon Liss, Charles Moylan and Robert I. H. Hammerman. Larry Gibson, a political advisor, attended City College as did J. Terry Edmonds, a speechwriter for President Clinton.

Among the nationally known authors who attended City College are Russell Baker and Leon Uris. Many local journalists learned their skills writing for City College publications, they include Michael Olesker, Gregory Kane, John Steadman and Hamilton Owens. John Jacob Oliver, the current editor of the Baltimore Afro-American is a City alumnus. Martin Rodbell, a 1994 Nobel prize winner in the field of medicine, graduated from Baltimore City College. Among Baltimore's civic and business leaders, Robert C. Embry, David Cordish, and Bernard Manekin, all attended high school at the "Castle on the Hill."

Zanvyl Kreiger and Carroll Rosenbloom, both attended City College and later owned the professional football teams, the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Colts, that played in Memorial Stadium across the street from their former high school. Herbert J. Belgrad, a City alumnus, helped to build Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the facility that replaced Memorial Stadium. George Young, a high school teacher and football coach at Baltimore City College, later became

a coach with the Baltimore Colts and the Miami Dolphins and General Manager of the New York Giants.

Well known artists who attended the "Castle of the Hill" were: Reuben Kramer, sculptor; Jacob Glushakow, painter; and Rowan LeCompte, stained glass artist (for the National Cathedral in Washington). Television actor, Michael Tucker, television personality, Garry Moore, and Broadway actor, Andre Deshields, were Baltimore City College alumni.

Among the City College alumni that fought in World War II, Isadore S. Jachman and Milton E. Ricketts each won the Congressional Medal of Honor. Admiral John William Kime, commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard from 1990-1994 was a graduate of Baltimore City College.

Many of these former Baltimore City College students have acknowledged how the school influenced them to succeed. Mayor Schmoke stated, "Meeting students from Baltimore's diverse neighborhoods contributed to my understanding of the multi-cultural nature of the entire country...Because of my experiences at City College, I was well prepared to enter Yale University." [16] Governor Schaefer stated, "Probably most important, City College played a pivotal role in the life choices students made...I'm sure my own urge to enter public life had its roots at the same time and place." [17]

Decline and Rebirth

With open enrollment and the end of segregation, the "Castle on the Hill" became overcrowded. Nearly 4,000 students attended the school in 1965 and students took courses in double shifts. The number of students taking non-academic courses rose, leaving only 55% of all students in the college preparatory programs. [18] In order to retain City's tradition as an elite high school, a proposal was made to transform it into an all-academic school; however, some African American leaders felt that this plan was an attempt to keep the population of the school predominately white.

With the status of the school in doubt and concerns over the growing black population, many white students flocked to two new high schools, Northwester and Northern, built in the northern suburbs in the mid-1960s. The population of Baltimore City College dropped by nearly 1500 students between 1965 and 1968. The phenomena of "white flight" after a decade of amicable racial relations in the school mirrored changes taking place in the Baltimore City School system in the late 1960s and 1970s. More and more white children left city schools for private schools or schools in Baltimore County and other suburban jurisdictions. In the early

1970s, the population of Baltimore City College dropped to 1,200 students and the school became a zoned neighborhood school in 1976. [19] By this time, the building was nearly fifty years old and was suffering from neglect.

Under the leadership of William Donald Schaefer, funds were appropriated for the renovation of the building. This was the first time an older high school building was renovated rather than replaced by a new structure. Forest Park, Southern, Poly and Western were replaced by new buildings in the 1960s and 70s. At the time, state school construction funds favored new construction above rehabilitation. Yet, due to the architectural excellence of the building and the tradition of Baltimore City College, an exception was made and the building was saved for future generations of students. In September 1976, the faculty and students moved into the former Poly building on North Avenue, while the "Castle on the Hill" was renovated.

The $8 million dollar renovation project was designed by Leon Bridges Company in a joint venture with McLeod, Ferrar, Ensign. Most of the original features of the building were preserved, but some changes took place including the removal of the auditorium balcony, placing dropped ceilings in many of the halls, installing metal classroom doors, altering the library space where a former trophy room was located and the construction of a new one story brick gymnasium to the southwestern corner of the building. Elevators and a service shaft were added to the east courtyard. Despite these alterations, the historic integrity of the building has been maintained since the exterior has changed little since the building was first constructed in 1928 and significant interior details were retained.

Not only was the building being renovated, the status of school underwent change. A task force was established to re-organize the school. A curriculum emphasizing the humanities was adopted. The advanced "A" course was reinvigorated along with a "B" course college preparatory program. Among the issues considered was opening the school to female students. Despite an 11-6 task force decision to maintain the school's male-only status, the school board rejected the recommendation and girls were admitted to Baltimore City College for the first time.

In September 1979, the newly refurbished Baltimore City College was open for ninth and tenth grade students. By September 1986, enrollment reached 1,550. Over the past fifteen years, Baltimore City College has regained some of the prestige of its Golden Age. Today with over 90% of its population African American and predominately female, over 95% of the graduating class attends college and the drop out rate is less than 5%. [20] It has been named a "Blue Ribbon School" by the U.S. Department of Education. The school also offers an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

The Collegiate Gothic architecture, the school's Latin motto emblazoned on newspaper clippings on accomplishments of alumni, and the display of plaques and awards going back nearly a century are all a part of the Baltimore City College tradition -- once a tradition exclusively of white males, but now encompassing the hopes and desires of students of all races and genders

Footnotes:

[1] James Chancellor Leonhard, *One Hundred Years of Baltimore City College,* (Baltimore: H. G. Roebuck & Son, 1939), p. 15.

[2] Leonhard, p. 19.

[3] David C. Danecker, editor, *150 Years of the Baltimore City College*, (Baltimore: Baltimore City College Alumni Association, 1988), p. 5.

[4] Danecker, p. 17.

[5] "City College Plan Selected by Board." *Baltimore Sun*, June 3, 1924.

[6] *Baltimore Sun*, June 3, 1924.

[7] *Baltimore Sun*, June 3, 1924.

[8] "G. Corner Fenhagen, Retired Architect, Dies at Age 70." *Baltimore Sun*, August 24, 1955.

[9] *Power Pictorial, May 1928*, Baltimore Gas & Electric Company.

[10] Danecker, p. 21.

[11] Danecker, p. 33.

[12] Danecker, p. 34.

[13] Danecker, p. 46.

[14] Leonhard, p. 184.

[15] Michael Olesker, *Journeys to the Heart of Baltimore*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), p. 236.

[16] Danecker, p. 111.

[17] Danecker, p. 109.

[18] Danecker, p. 51.

[19] Danecker, p. 54.

[20] Toronto National Post, April 26, 2001.

Major Bibliographical References:

"City College Plan Selected by Board." *Baltimore Sun*, June 3, 1924.

Danecker, David C., editor. *150 Years of the Baltimore City College*. Baltimore: Baltimore City College Alumni Association, 1988.

"G. Corner Fenhagen, Retired Architect, Dies at Age 70." *Baltimore Sun*, August 24, 1955.

Leonhard, James Chancellor. *One Hundred Years of Baltimore City College*. Baltimore: H. G. Roebuck & Son, 1939.

Olesker, Michael. *Journeys to the Heart of Baltimore*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.

"New City College to Be Finest in United States." *Baltimore Municipal Journal*, Volume 12, Number 11, June 10, 1924.

Power Pictorial, May 1928, Baltimore Gas & Electric Company.

Baltimore City College B-5083
Name of Property

Baltimore, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 34 acres

UTM References Baltimore East, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	362270	4354190
2	18	362580	4353180
3	18	362540	4353290
4	18	362050	4353810

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fred B. Shoken, Preservation Consultant

Organization _____ date June 28, 2002

street & number 1707 Park Avenue telephone (410) 669-5669

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21218

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

street & number Room 250 City Hall telephone (410) 669-5669

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21218

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Baltimore City College is bounded by the following streets: 33rd Street, The Alameda, Kirk Avenue, Carswell Street, Gorsuch Avenue and Loch Raven Boulevard. It is located on Lot 5 in Block 4139 B in Baltimore City Land Records. Boundaries are specifically depicted by the heavy line on the attached map entitled National Register Boundaries.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include the entire school grounds historically associated with Baltimore City College which retain integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

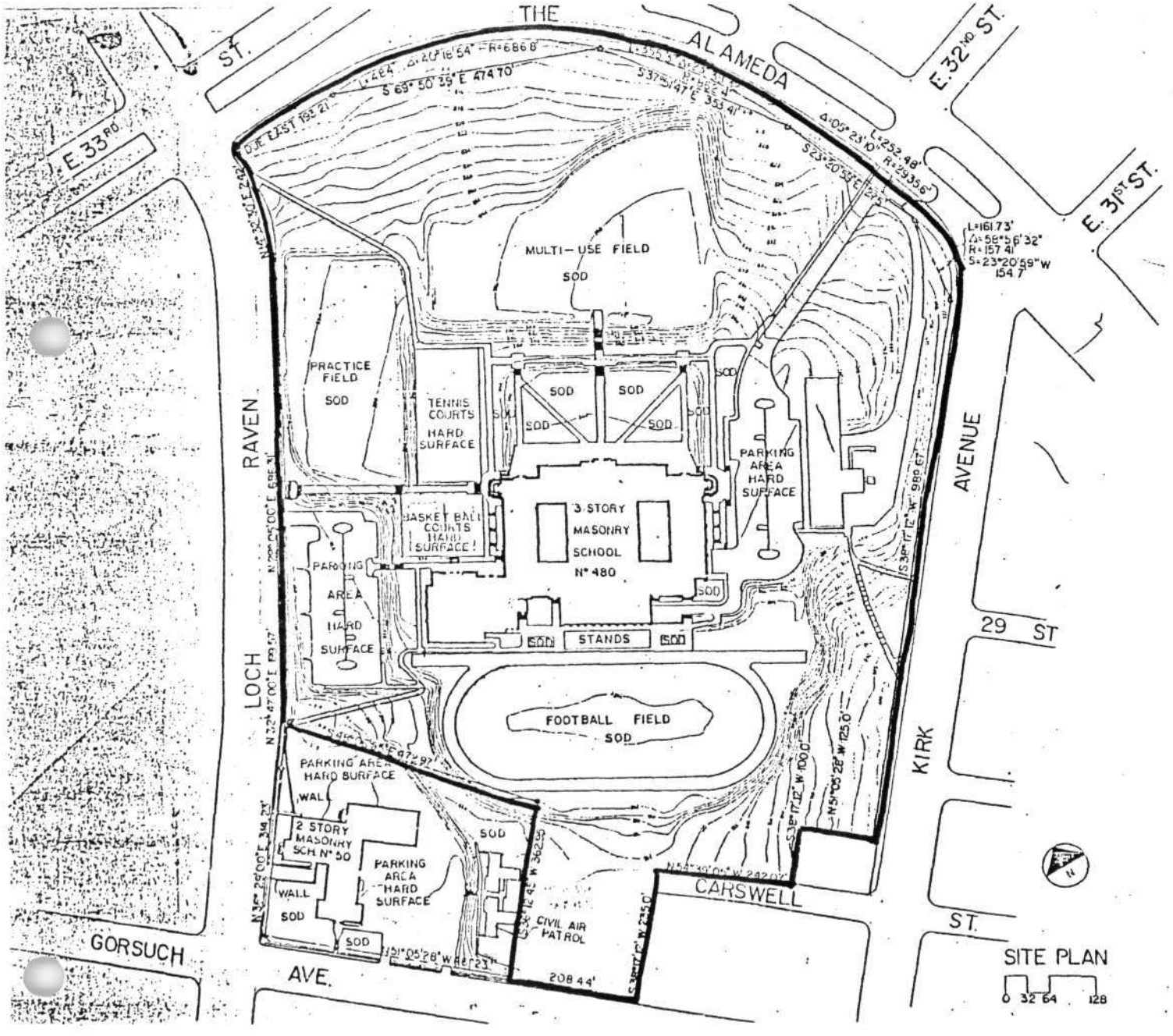
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Baltimore City College B-5083
Name of Property

Baltimore, Maryland
County and State

Section 10 Page 2

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES



Balto. East Quad.

B-5083

BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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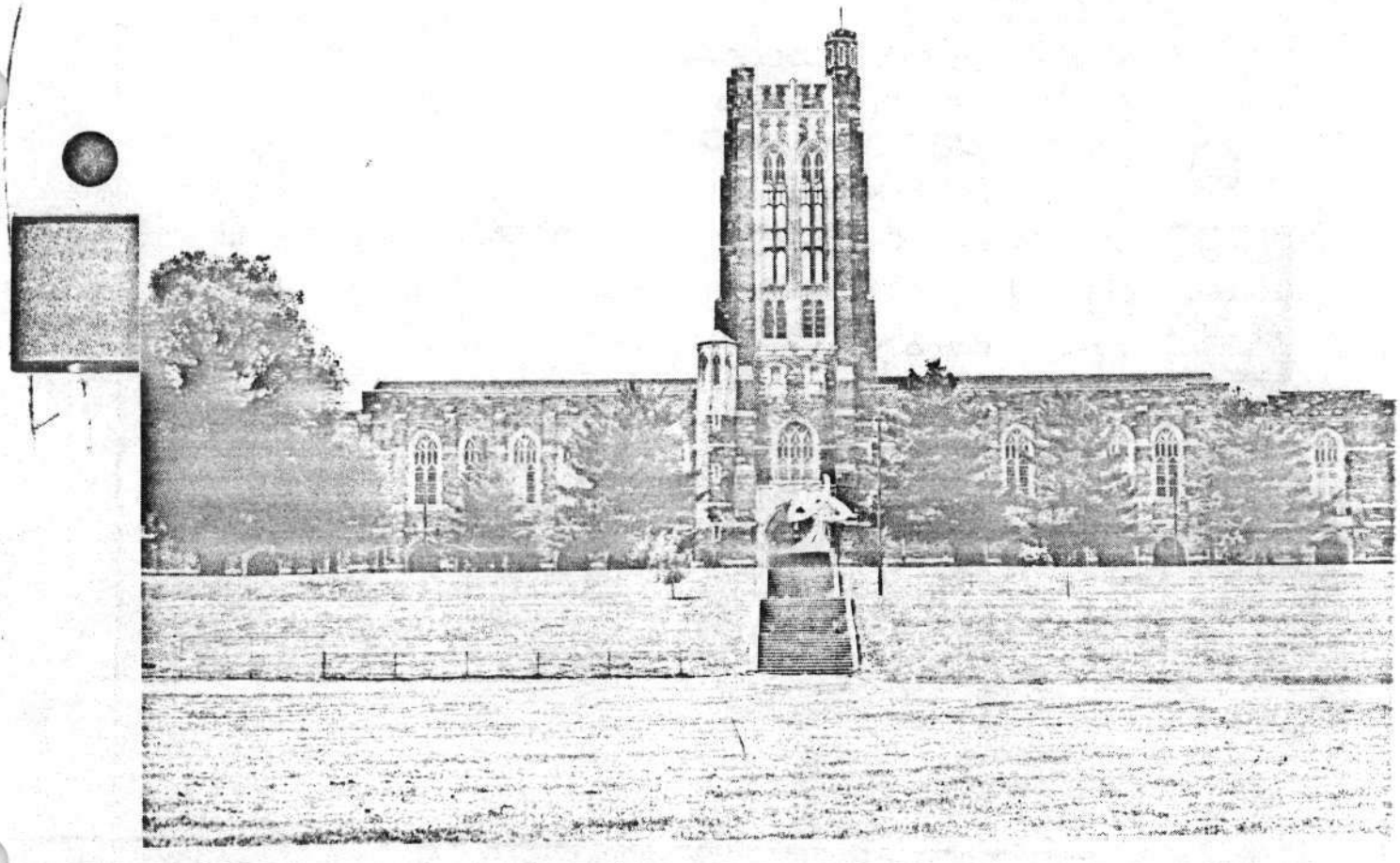
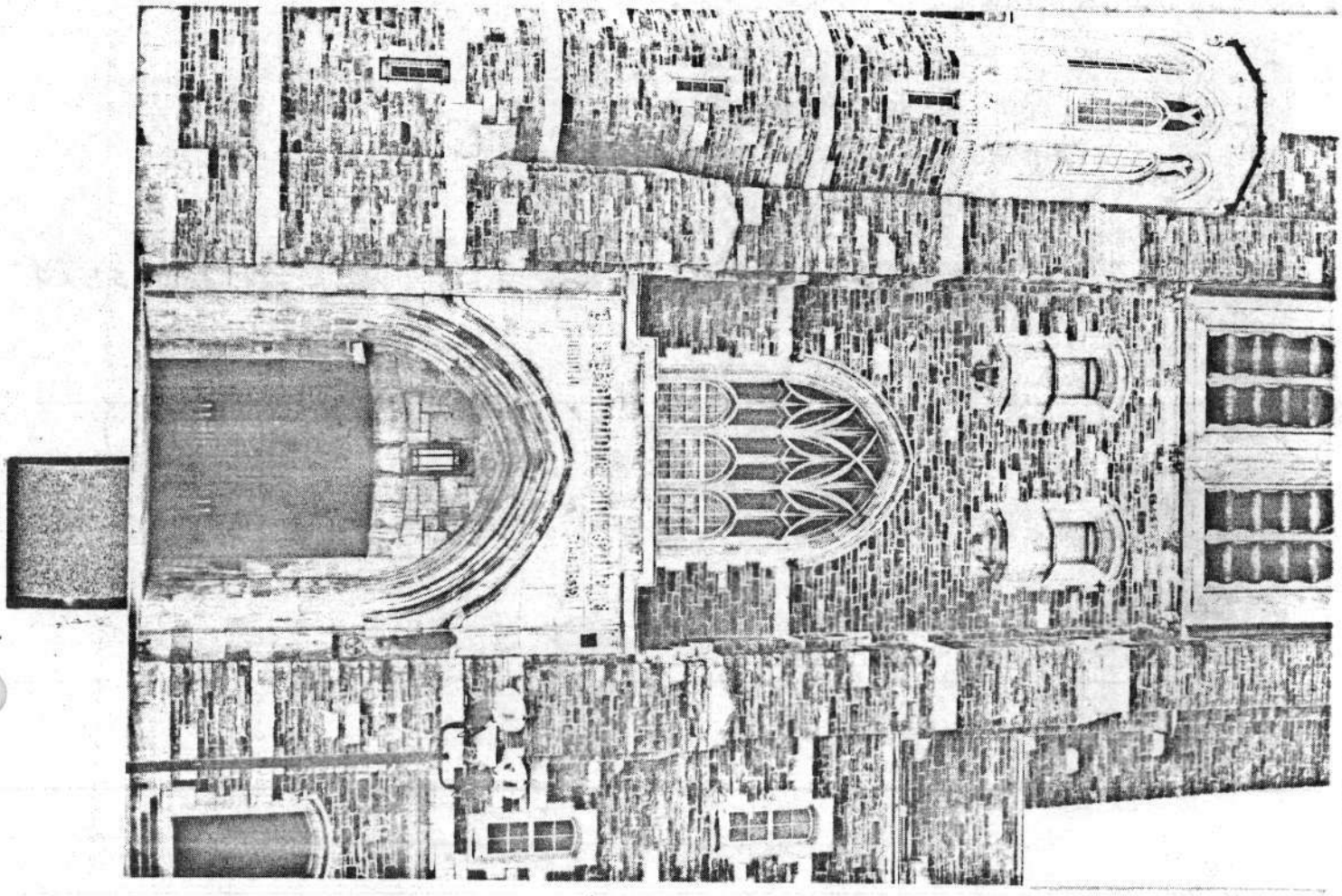
② 18-362580-4353180

③ 18-362540-4353290

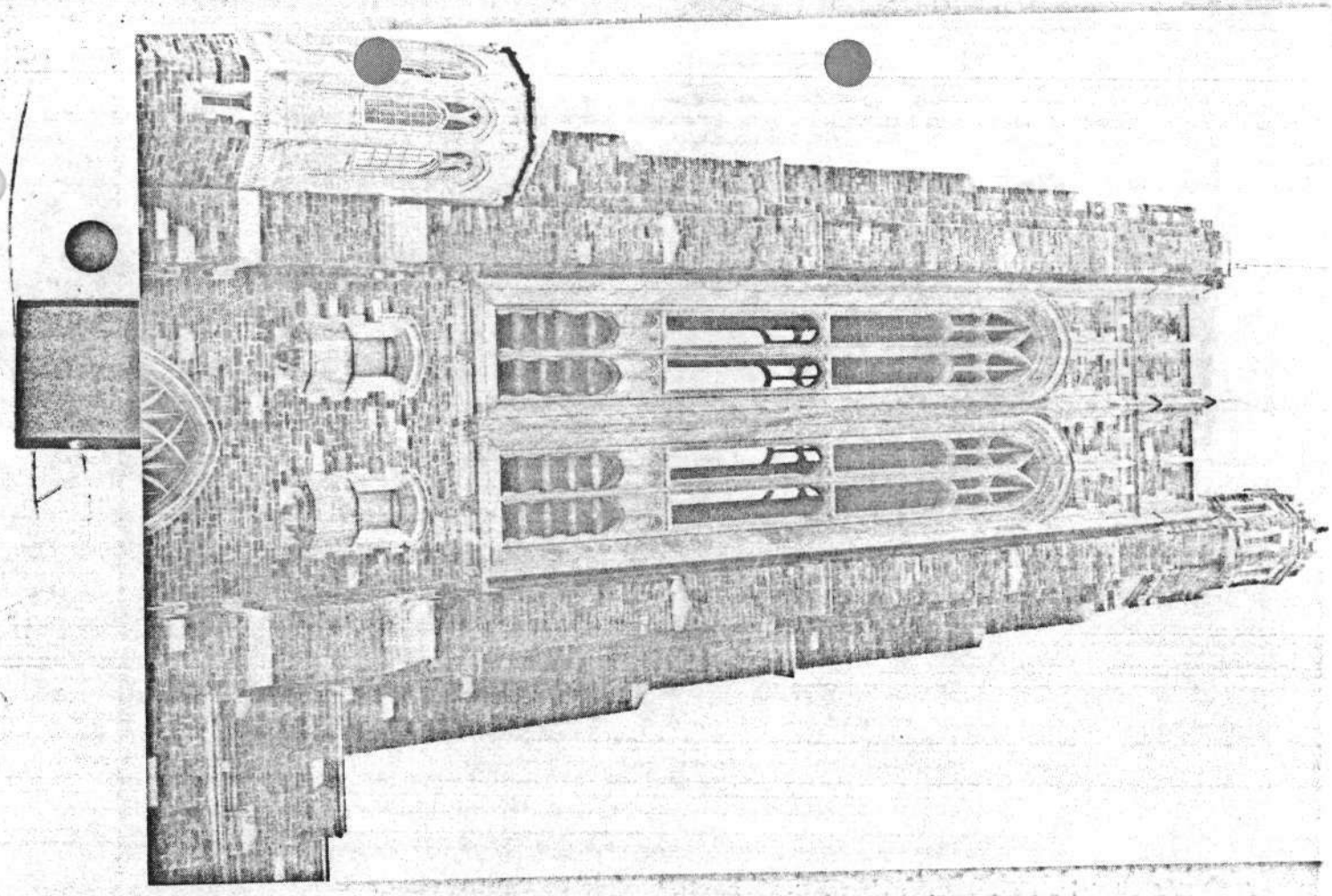
④ 18-362050-4353810





B-5083
BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
3220 THE ALAMEDA
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD III
CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEG @ MD SHPO
6/2002
FRONT FACADE
1/22

B-5083
BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
3220 THE ALAMEDA
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD III
CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOC. NEG @ MD SHPO
6/2002
TOWER BASE
2/22



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3220 THE ALAMEDA
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CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOC. NEG @ MD SHPO
6/2002
TOWER
3/22

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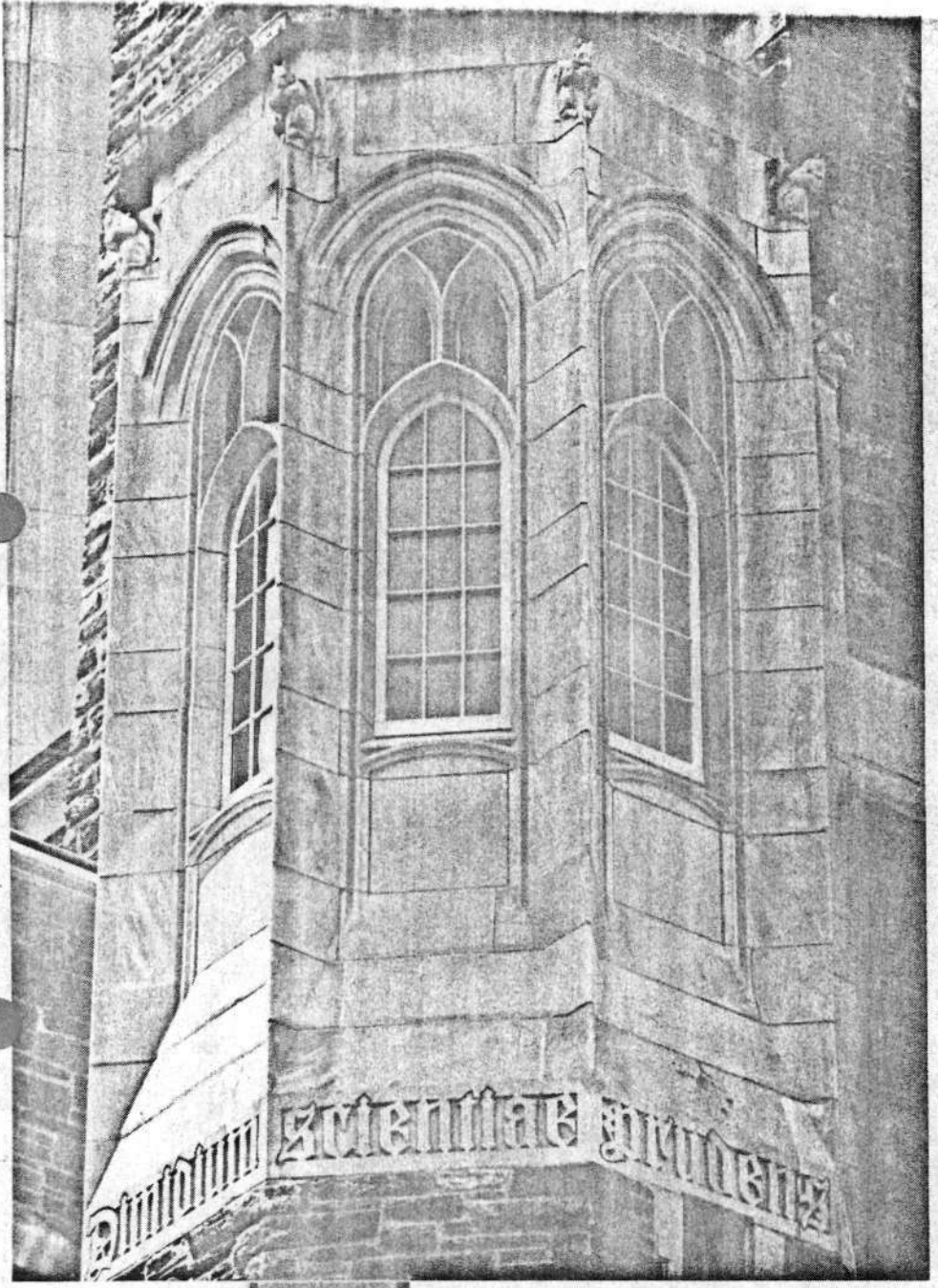
3220 THE ALAMEDA
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD III
CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOC. NEG @ MD SHPO
6/2002
TOWER DETAIL
4/22



Filius
IN HONOR OF 1167 FORMER STUDENTS
WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES AND
OUR ALLIES IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918

B-5083
BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
3220 THE ALAMEDA
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD, III
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TOWER DETAIL
5/22

2

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BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
3220 THE ALAMEDA
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD, III
CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOC. NEG @ MD SHPO
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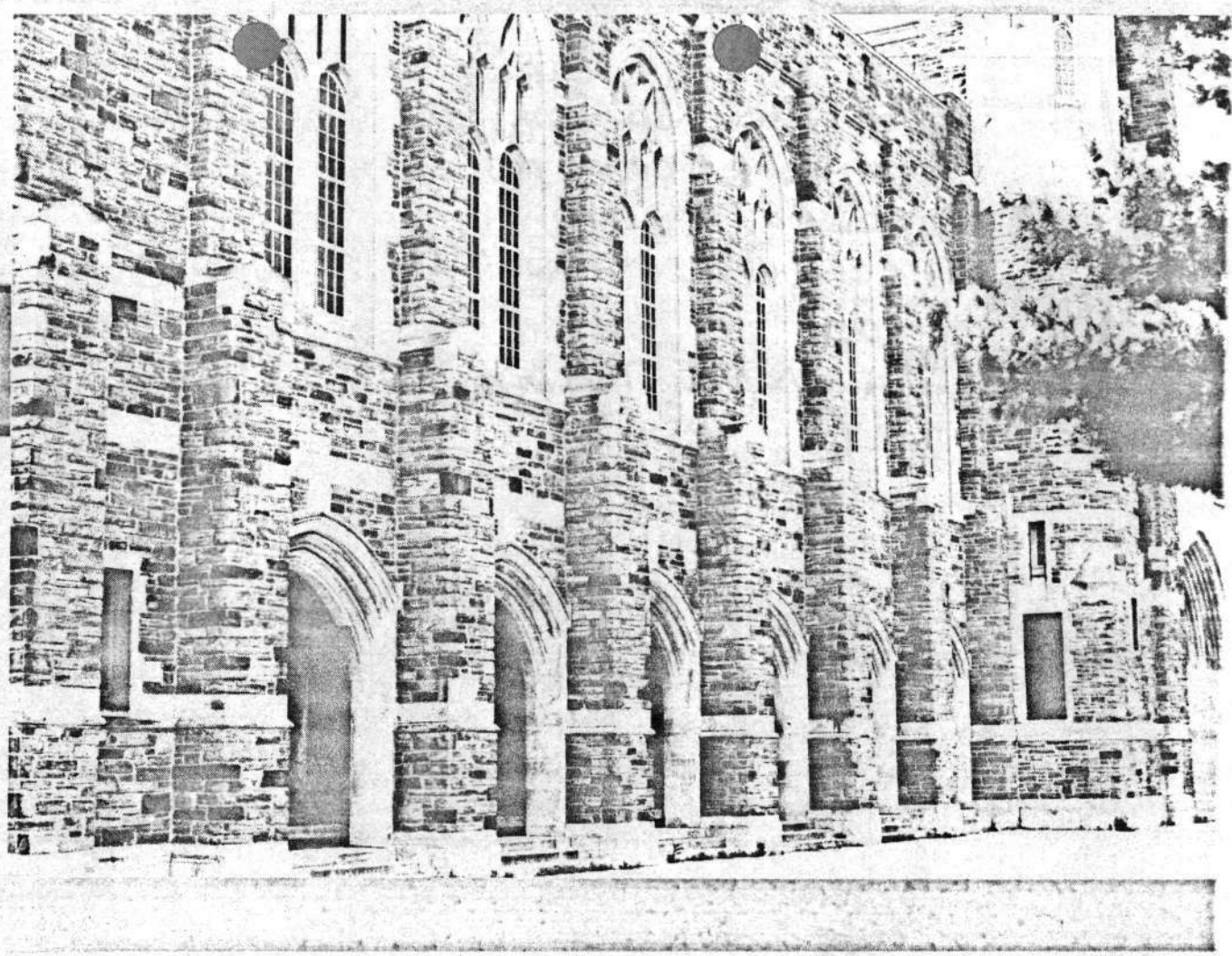

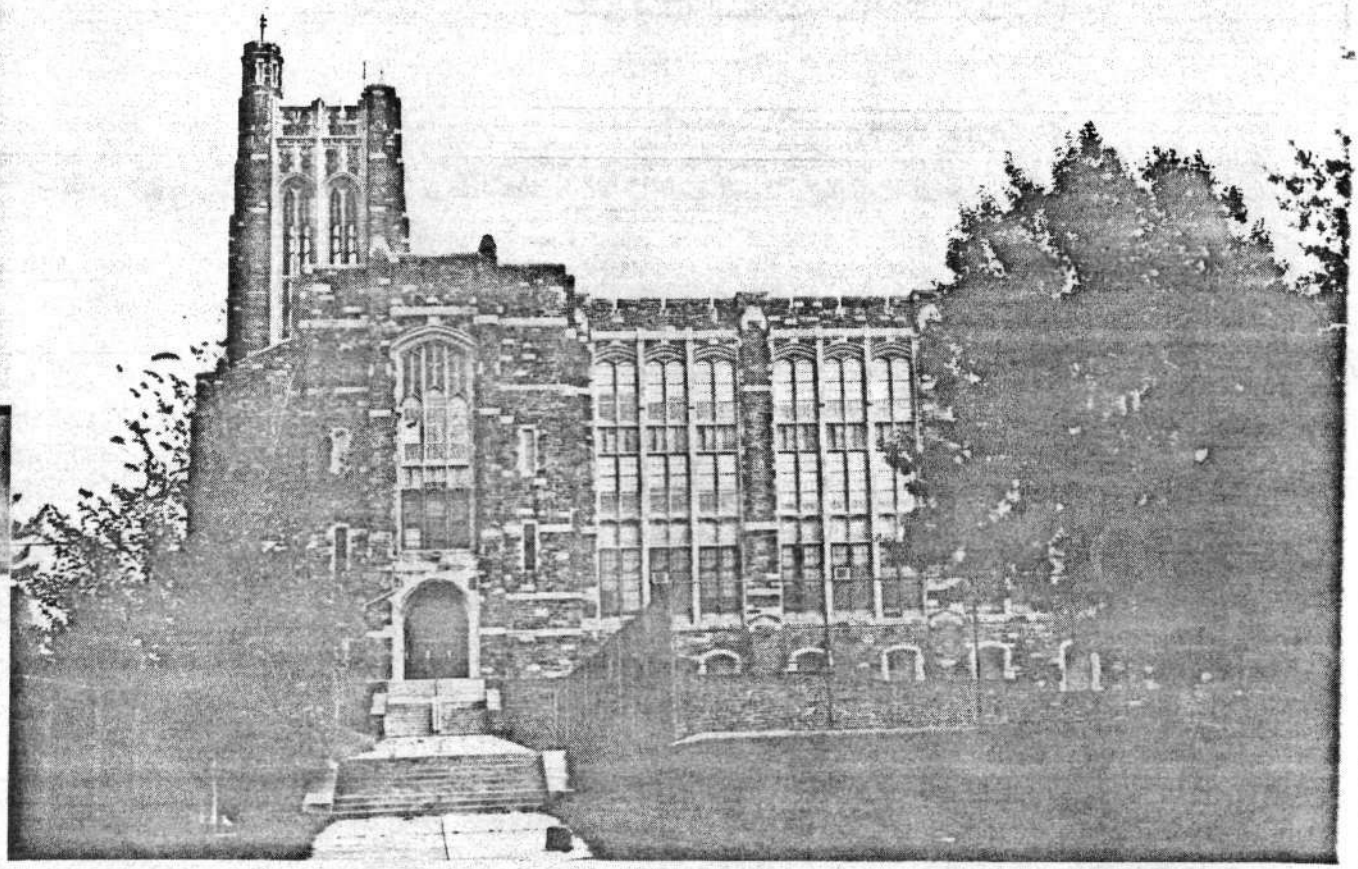

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3220 THE ALAMEDA
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD, III
CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOC. NEG @ MD SHPO
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FRONT FACADE ARCADE
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BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
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BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD, III
CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOC. NEG @ MD SHPO
6/2002
WEST SIDE ELEVATION
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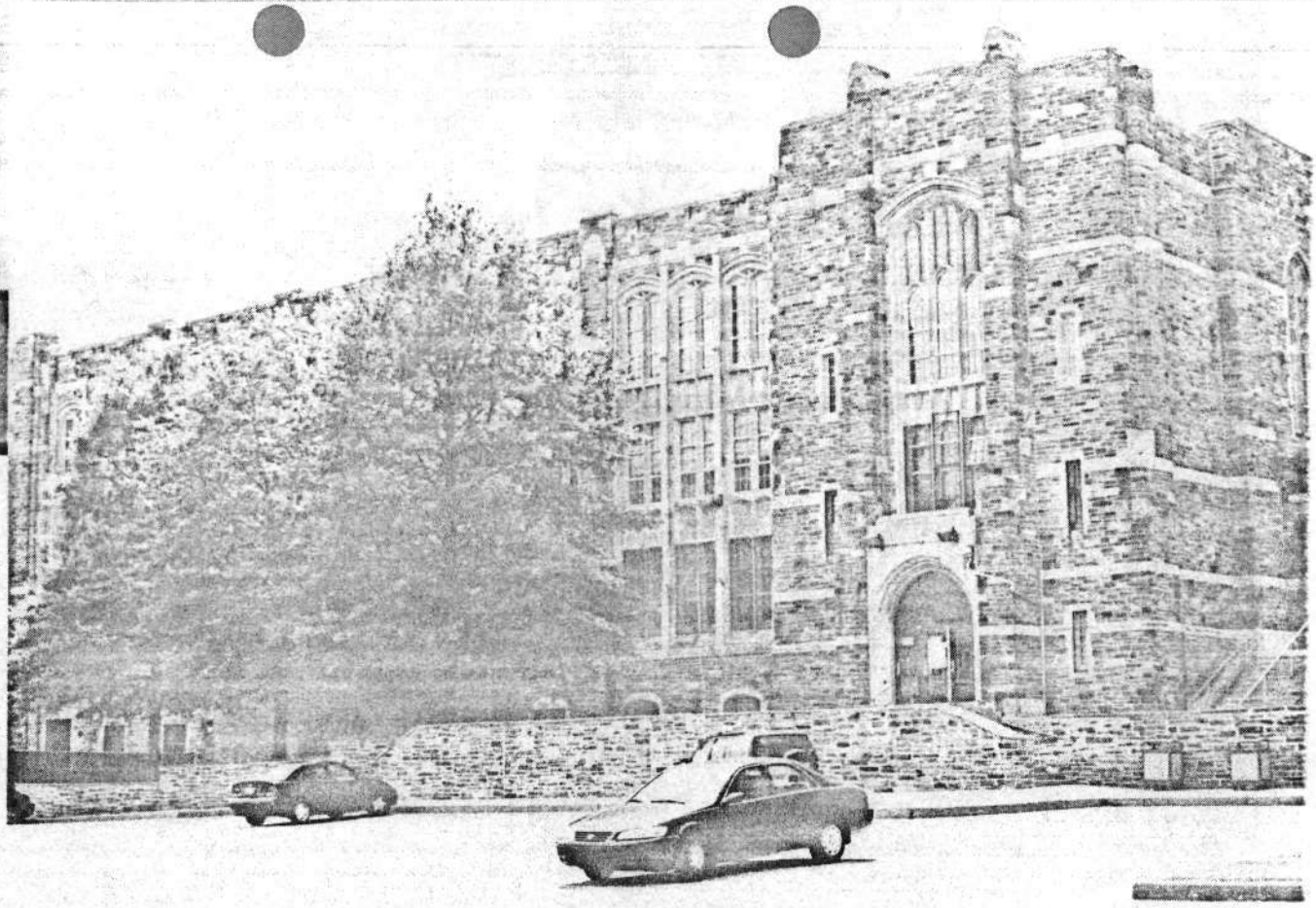

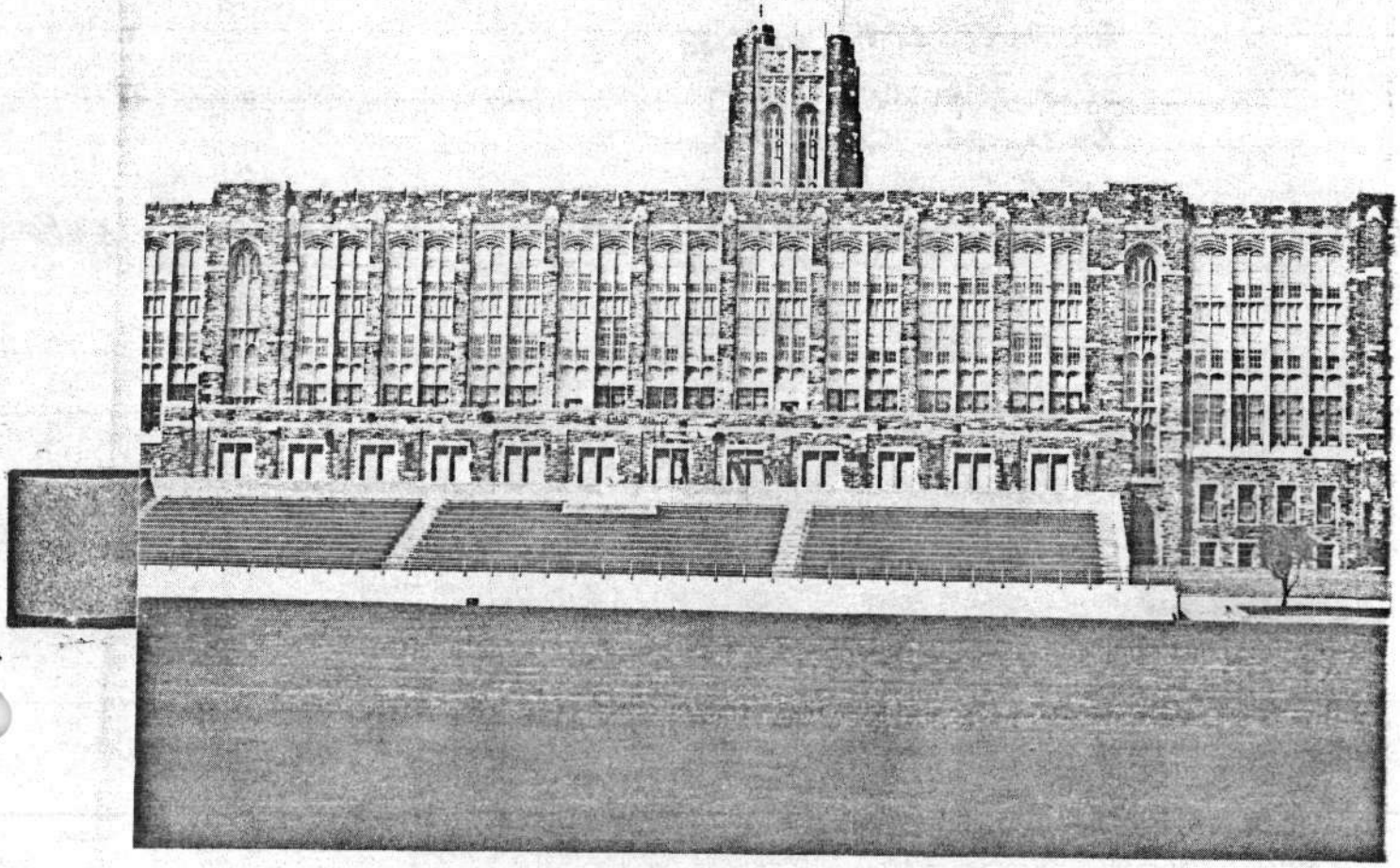

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EAST SIDE ELEVATION
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10/22

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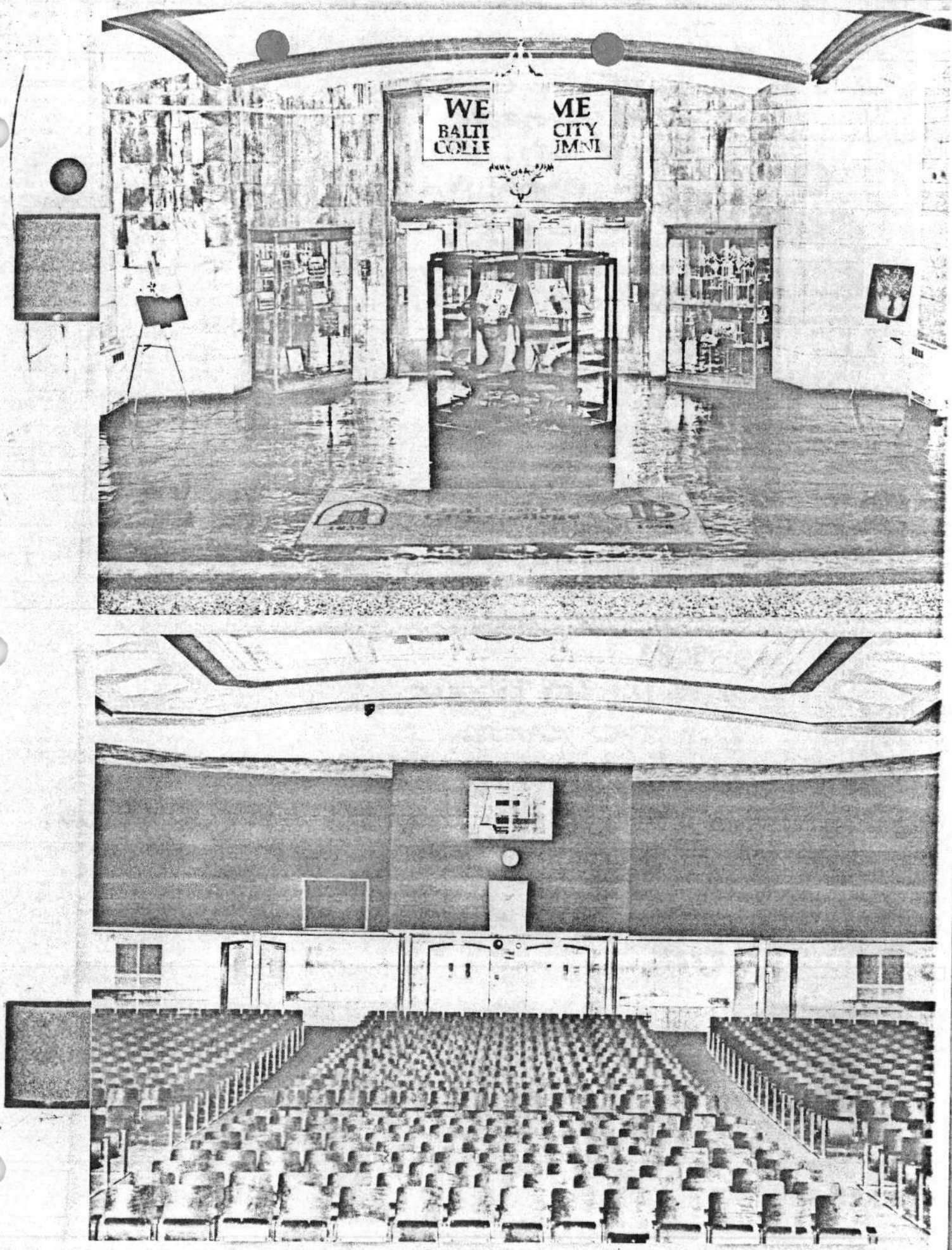
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JACOB D. HOWARD, III
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INTERIOR LOBBY
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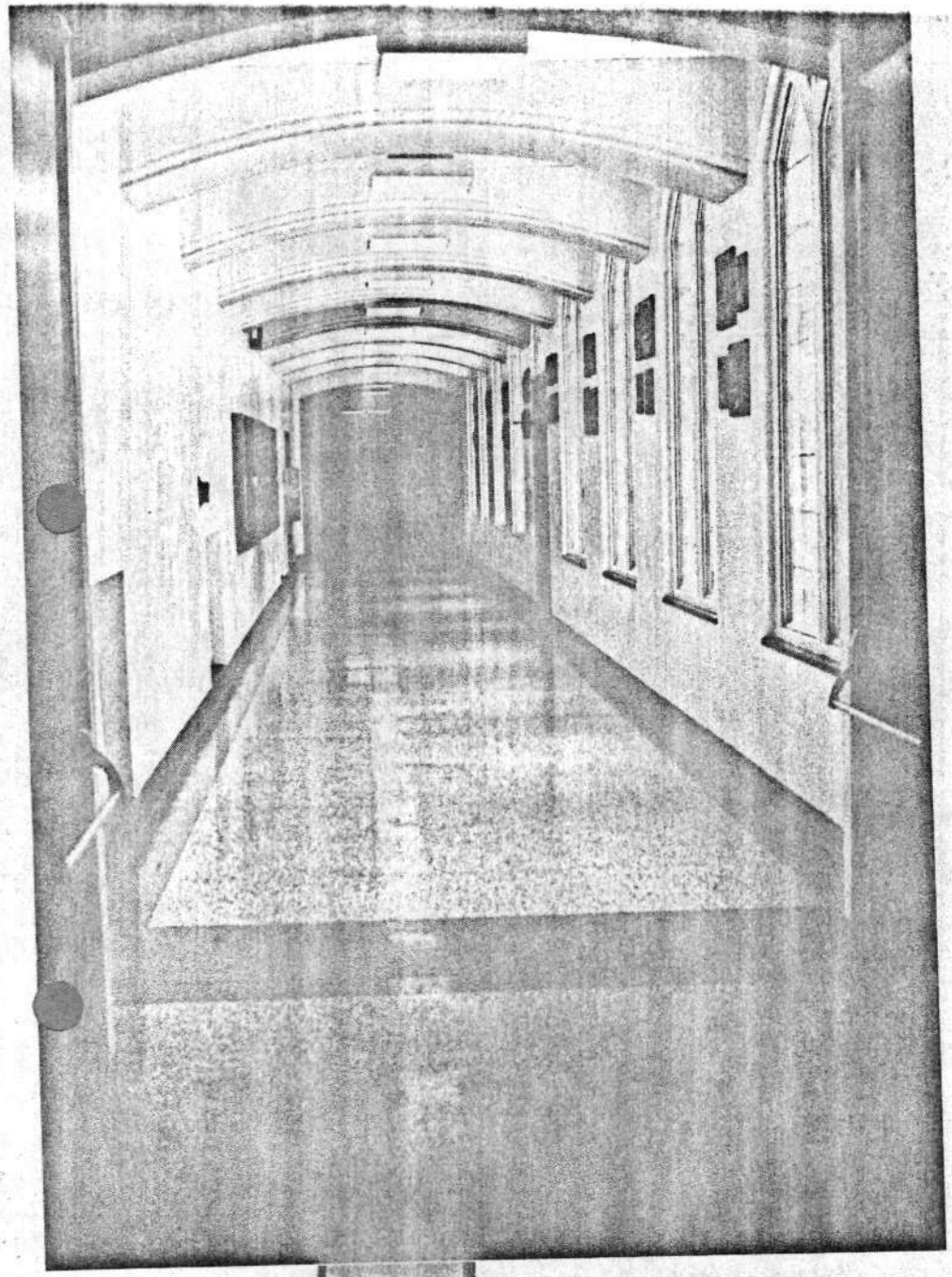

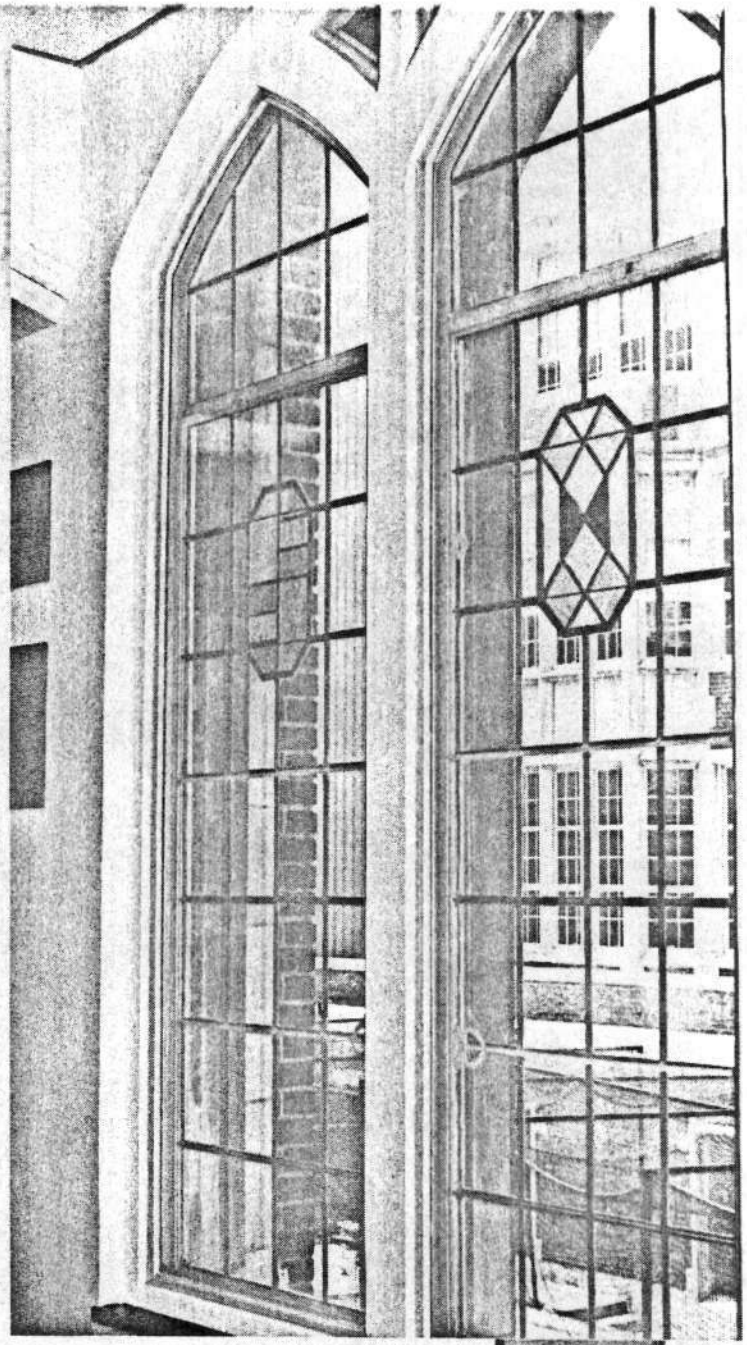

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INTERIOR HALL
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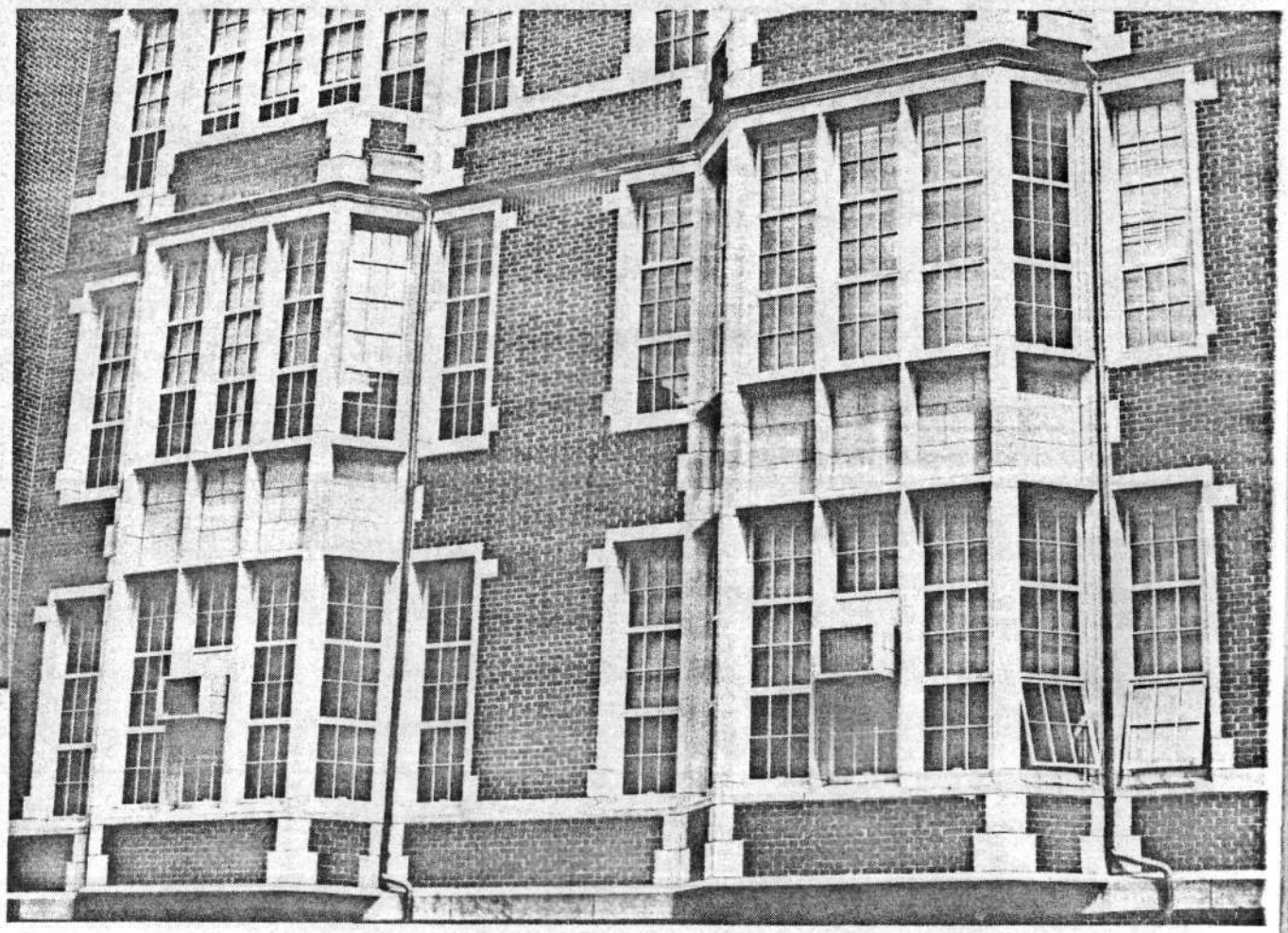

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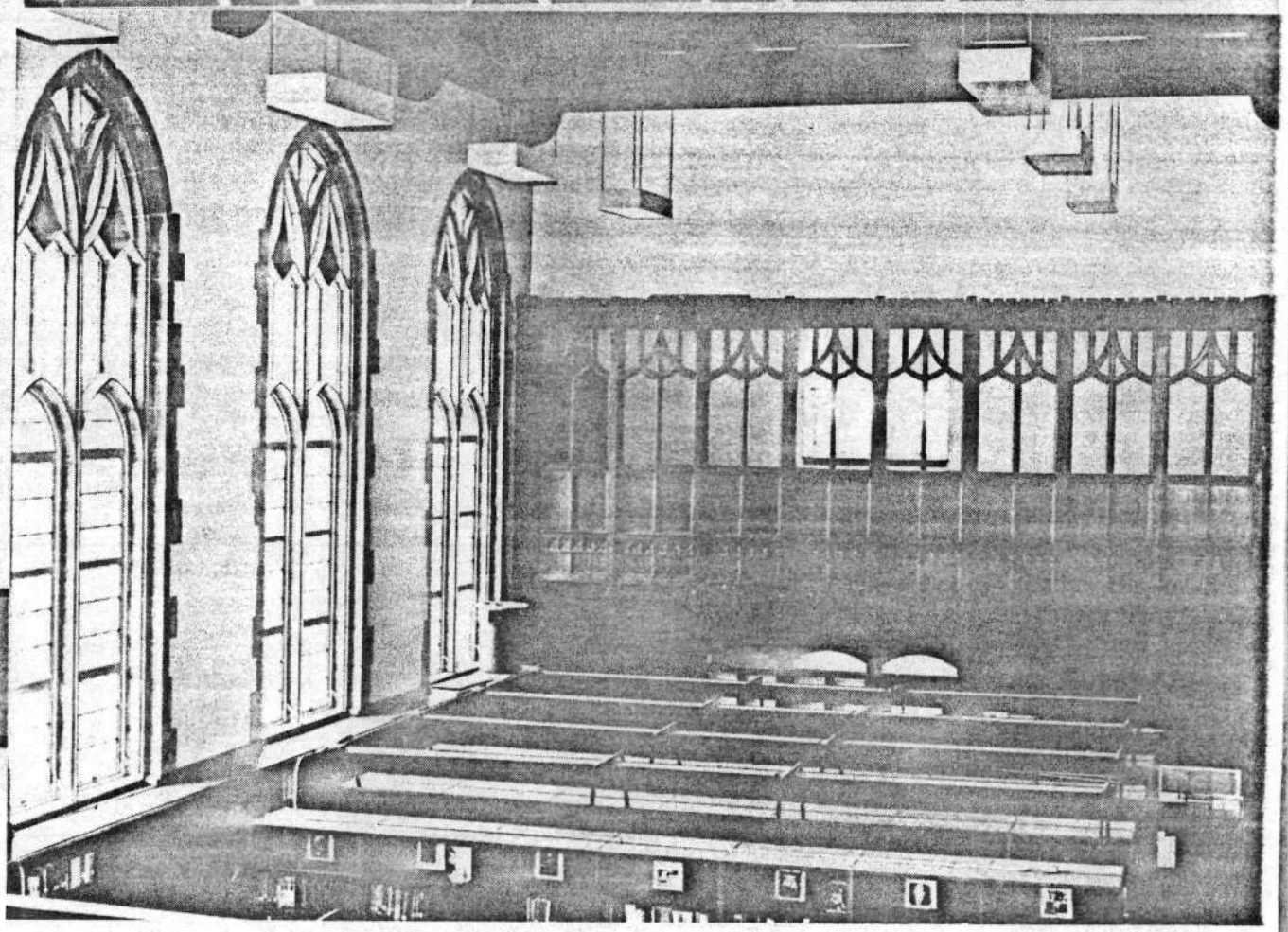

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COURTYARD PLAQUE
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6/2002
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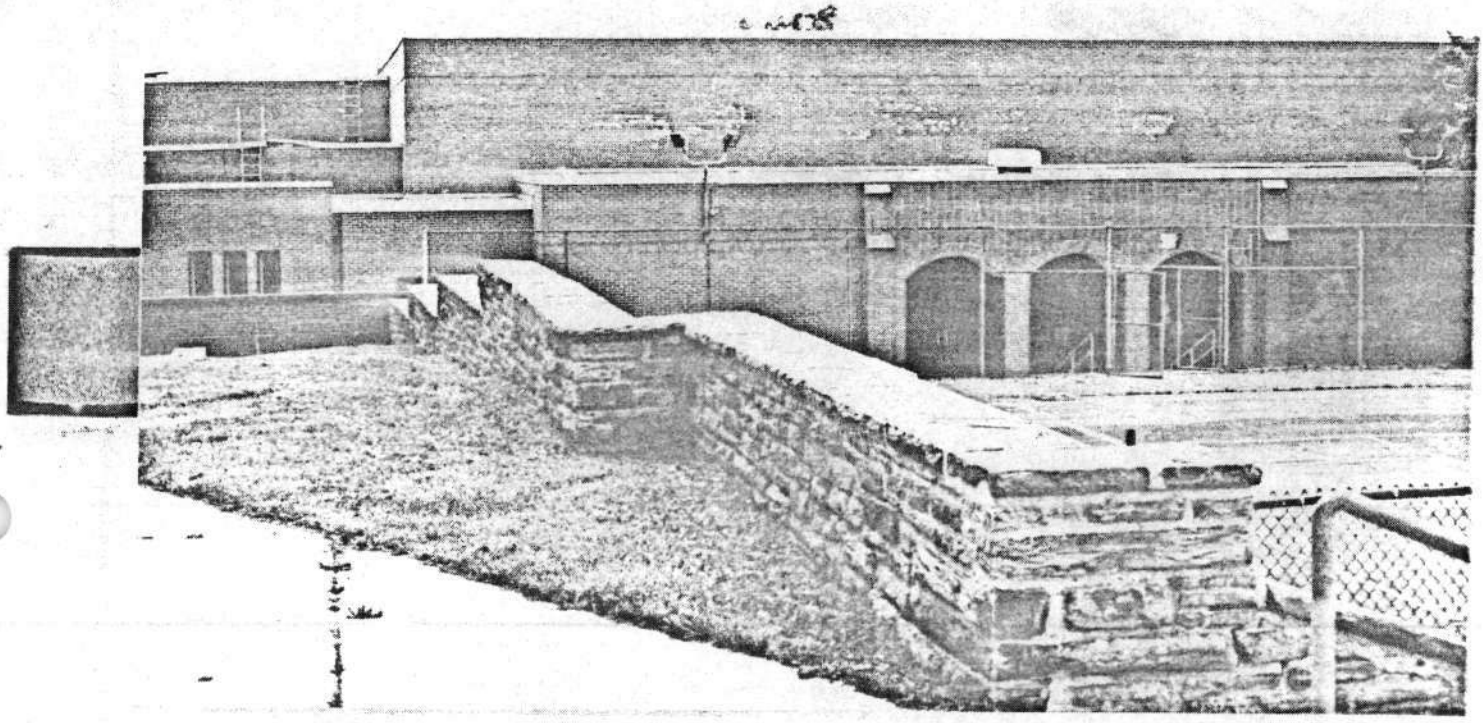

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INTERIOR SOUTHERN RAILWAY
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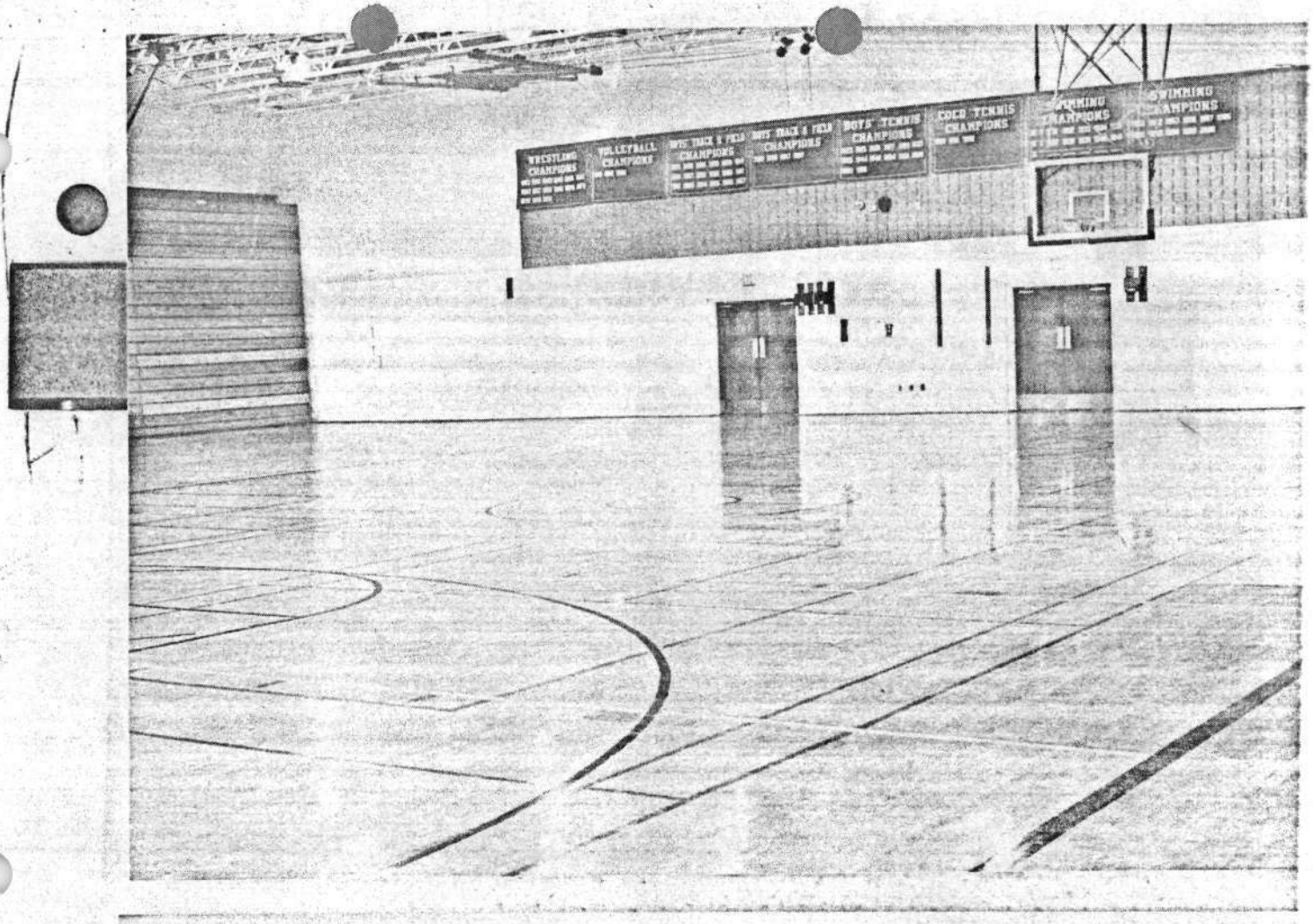
20/22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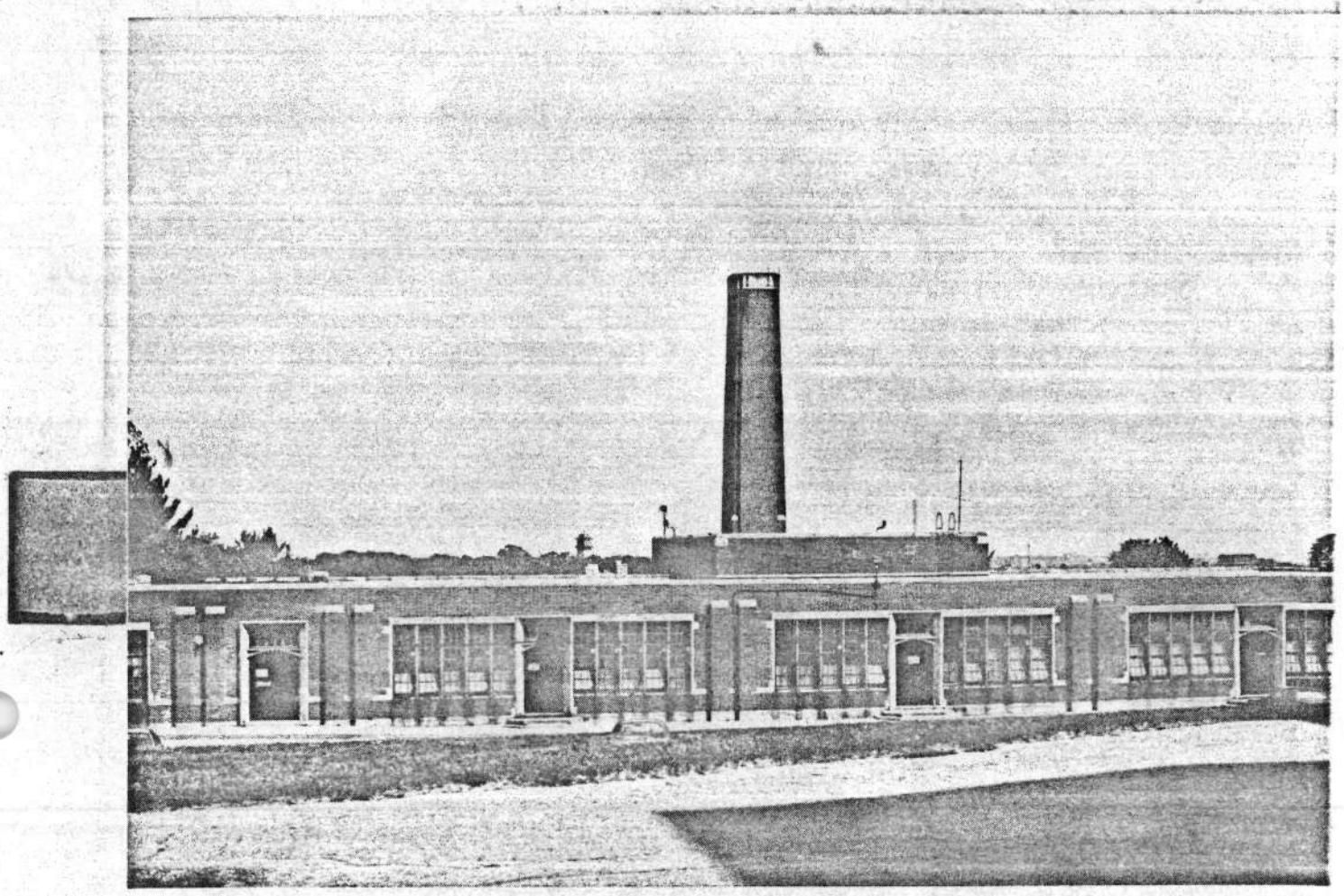

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BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
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BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
JACOB D. HOWARD, III
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6/2002
GYMNASIUM - INTERIOR
21/22

NEG @ MD SHPO

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BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
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BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
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CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOC.
6/2002
POWER PLANT
22/22

NEG @ MD SHPO

23