

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Old Towson High School

AND/OR COMMON \_\_\_\_\_

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Allegheny and Central Avenues

CITY, TOWN Towson VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Ninth

STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Board of Education of Baltimore County Telephone #: 494-4340

STREET & NUMBER Allegheny and Central Avenues

CITY, TOWN Towson VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Baltimore County Courthouse Liber #: 2871

STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ Folio #: 117

Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Fall, 1977</u>

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Old Towson High School is constructed of red brick with a common bond. There are two brick levels and an above ground basement that is constructed of coarsed stone. The building has an L-shape to it, and is Italianate is style.

The south facade is where the main entrance is located. The main entrance has a portico which is topped with bracketed eaves and round arched windows that are 9/9 sash. These windows are topped with flat arches.

To enter the building, one passes through two large double doors that measure 80" wide and 7'10" high. There is a large wood panel over top of the door. There 6/6 windows on either side of the double doors. The windows are made of bubbly or wavy glass which indicates that these windows are older than the other windows in the building which do not have the wavy panes.

Surrounding the porch there is a turned balluster banister. Connected to the wall of the porch there are square half columns or pilasters. There are six marble steps leading to the front door that are necessarily wide. The width of the stairs may indicate how many students passed through the doors of the school each day.

Surrounding the entire building there is a belt course of stone slabs which separates the top two levels from the basement level. Around the bottom level there is a water table which is the thickest protruding portion of the school. There are no rows of headers. There are three belt courses above the water table. These are constructed of pieces of granite that are 10" thick and 5' in length.

In the west facade of the school the fenestration changes. The basement windows are the same, but there are triads of arched windows that are 9/9 sash on the second level. The third level also has triads of 9/9 windows.

The symmetry in the first two facades is lost on the north facade. A possible reason for thus change is that the fire escape may have been moved at one one time. There is a 4/4 transom over the present fire escape door. A large Corbeled chimney tops the back facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Primary Sources at the Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md. 21204  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Crewe, Amy, No Backward Step was Taken. Baltimore County, Maryland:  
Teachers Association of Baltimore County, Md., Inc., 1949

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	WAYNE L. NIELD, II
Melanie Butler - Student Surveyor	HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Historic Towson Inc. - Goucher College	December 15, 1977
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
	825-3300
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Towson	Maryland

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

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

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

The fourth or east facade has the same bracketed eaves and the same stone foundation. The pointing and mortar between the bricks on this side have weathered less than the rest of the building, which makes the facing seem newer than the rest of the school.

At the back of the building the entrance to the basement to the basement has seven marble steps. There is a bracketed hood over the staircase that is entered through a round brick archway.

Inside the basement, the walls are made of the same thick coarsed stone that is visible on the outside level of the basement. In the northwest facade of the basement there is a large boiler made of brick with a cast-iron door. The name on the door is Kererator. It has a registered U.S. Patent, New York 17, N.Y. The initials J.C. are in the lower left and right corners of the boiler. The boiler is very large. It measures 6'2" tall, 5'11" deep and 4'11" wide and may be only one of several like it that once heated the school. An earlier photograph of the school which is in the basement leads one to believe that there were several Corbeled chimneys in the school at one time.

In the basement, there are two bathrooms. Each of the bathrooms have three walls of brick with their outside walls being constructed of coarsed stone.

Each of the bathrooms has five sinks and eight stalls indicating the number of teachers and students that the bathrooms were supposed to accomodate.

The second or main level of the building is reached by climbing a small staircase. On either side of the main door there are two very ornate floral patterned radiators.

Also on the second there is a pressed metal ceiling which incorporates a curvilinear cornice. The ceiling is 13' high with a floral patten that suggests garlands and swags surrounding inset squares that are small. These small square are encompassed by larger squares that all meet in the center of the room. There is an ornate Victorian heat register of cast-iron ? in one of the small offices on this floor.

Both the second and third level plan of rooms is centralized. There appear to have been classrooms on either side of a large hallway totalling five large classrooms and one small classroom. As a result of adaptive use, the school has been divided up into many small office areas.

BA-1105

Old Towson High School - Significance

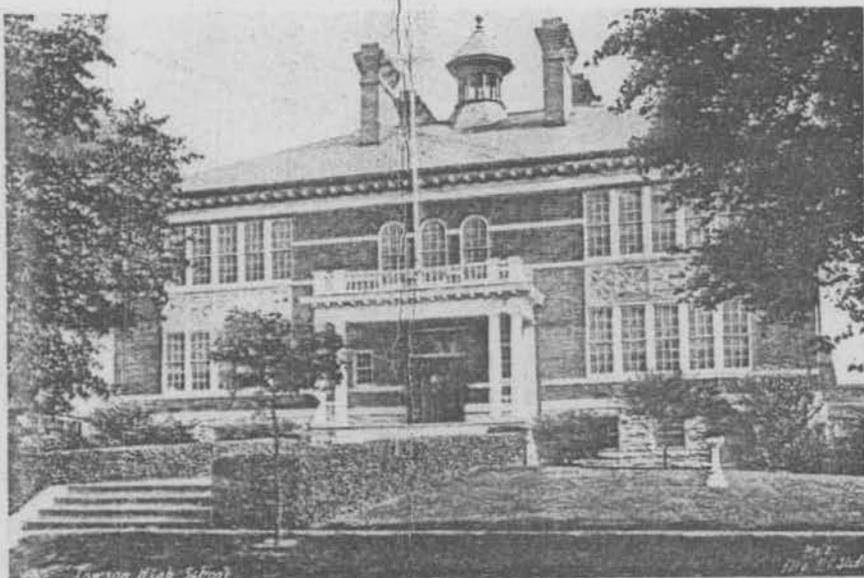
Built in the first decade of the 20th Century, the Old Towson High School is a significant building because of its Italianate styling, because of what it demonstrates concerning the technological shift from the use of wood to metal in pre-fab decorative details, and because of its continuous use for over 70 years as an education related structure.

Evidence of continued interest in the Italianate style and perhaps a recognition of its importance to Towson is witnessed in the one dozen or so other known Italianate style has been updated. Instead of the bracketed eaves being constructed of wood as they would have been in the 1850's, the eaves have been constructed of galvanized metals. The use of metal is probably an economic factor relative to mass production and a materials consideration in which a pre-fab object made out of a cheaper material is painted to look like a more expensive one.

The building is important also because it was built with a specific function in mind. A school building is a very important aspect of community living. Not only is school held in the building, but various other community organizations may often use the school building for meetings and other town functions. Often, in smaller communities like Towson, the school building plays an extremely important role in all community functions.

BA-1105

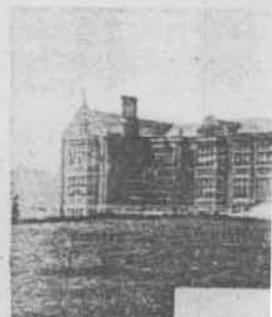
*"The foundation of every State is the education of its youth."*  
—DIOGENES.



TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL

The Towson High School was erected in 1907 and had an enrollment of ninety at the time of its dedication. This has increased to four hundred in 1923.

About a quarter of a million dollars has been appropriated by Baltimore County for the erection of a new and larger High School in Towson, and the present high school will become the grammar school.



MAR

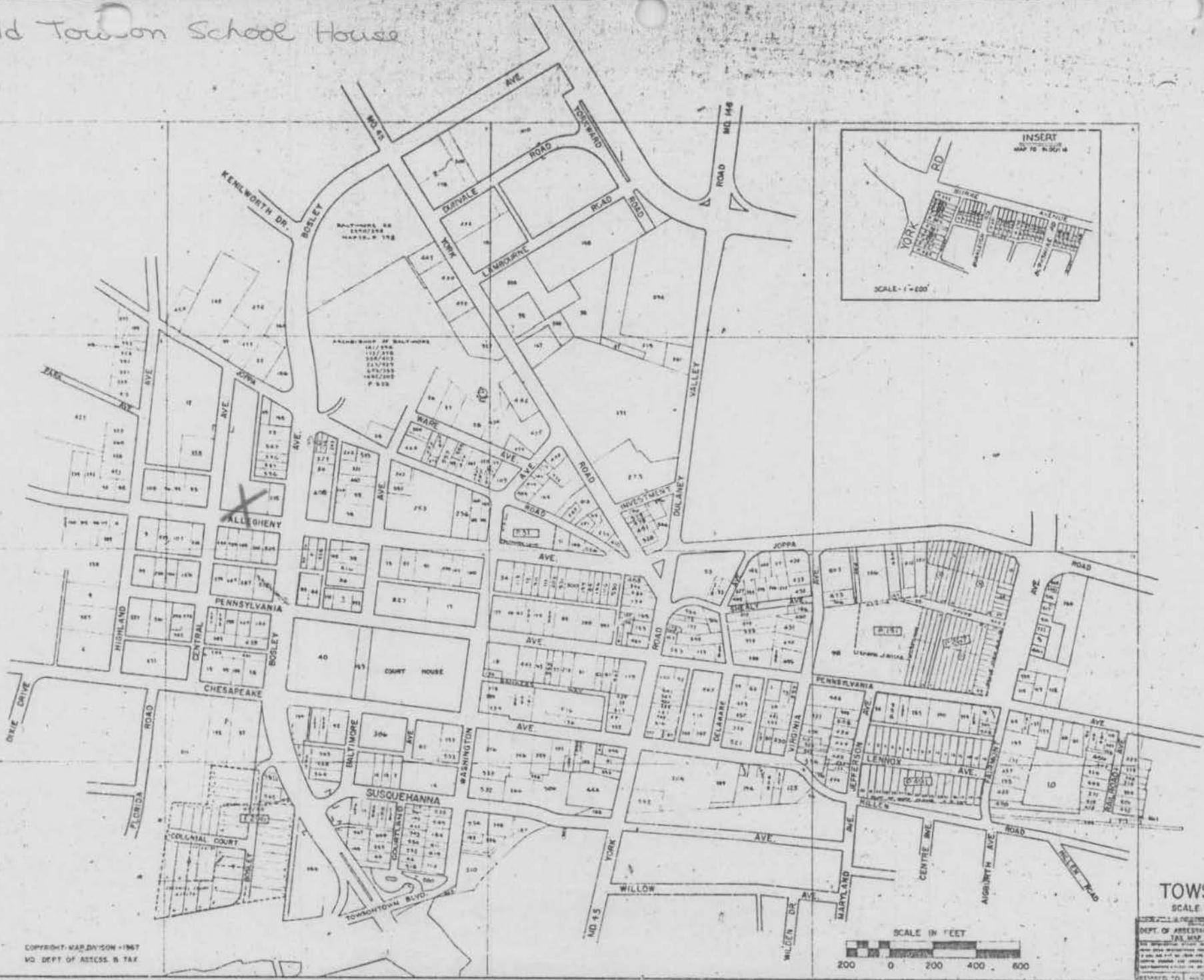
The Maryland Sta  
It was first located in  
ful site in Towson.

The imposing adm  
approach to Towson  
eighty-eight acres of b  
ance of about 500 stu  
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erecting an additional

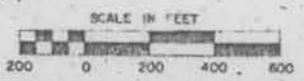
In connection with  
for pupils from Towse

*"Towson... Beautiful Sub... " C. 1923*

# Old Town School House



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 MD. DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX.



**TOWSON**  
 SCALE 1" = 200'  
 DEPT. OF ARRESTMENTS & TAXATION  
 TAX MAP DIVISION

BA-1105

MAP NO. 70A



BA-1105

OLD TOWSON HIGH SCH.  
S. FACADE

W. NIELD

9/78



BA-1105

OLD TOWSON HIGH SCH.  
S.E.