200000458

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Randallstown Elementary School Survey Number: BA-2558
Project: Enlargement Agency: PSCP
Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended ___

Criteria: X A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Randallstown Elementary School, built of granite block, opened in 1908 as a 4-room schoolhouse in Baltimore County Maryland. Additions were put on in 1926 and again in 1938 using a form, height, style and materials consistent with the original building. The original 1908 building was designed by F.T. Jones and built by G. Walter Tovell. The 1926 and 1938 additions were planned by Smith and May, Consulting Architects and Huldreich Egli, Consulting Engineer, both of Baltimore. The interior of the 1908 structure has been compromised by the installation of new offices, but the two additions remain remarkably intact, representing excellent examples of early twentieth century architecture.

Randallstown Elembentary School remains as a notable example of Baltimore County's support of progressive educational reform ideas circulating in the early part of this century. Schools began to be seen as centers for both academic and social edification. Reformists also championed new architectural designs that made schools safer and more hygenic. Randallstown Elementary embodies the design ideals of such noted twentieth century school architects as John Donovan and William Bruce with its inclusion of an auditorium, classrooms for specific uses, large expanses of windows to allow natural light, and coatrooms inside each classroom. Although the school has undergone several additions and other alterations, the classroom area remains remarkably intact. The exterior also retains its original appearance and integrity. Throughout its history, Randallstown Elementary has served as a focal point for the Randallstown community and today remains he oldest operating Baltimore County School.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Survey BA-2558, Review & Compliance Files

Prepared by: Anne Brockett, URS Greiner Woodward Clyde,

Patricia McCloskey January 10, 2000
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

R program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

1/11/00
Reviewer, NR program Date

Survey No. BA-2558

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

____	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
____	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
X	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
____	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

____	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
____	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
____	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
____	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
____	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
____	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
____	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
____	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
____	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
____	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
X	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
X	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
____	Unknown Period (___ prehistoric	___ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

____	Subsistence
____	Settlement
____	Political
____	Demographic
____	Religion
____	Technology
____	Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

____	Agriculture
____	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
____	Government/Law
____	Military
____	Religion
X	Social/Educational/Cultural
____	Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: School

Historic Environment _____

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): School

_____

_____

Known Design Source: _____

Randallstown Elementary School

BA-2558

Construction Date: 1908

Location: Randallstown, Baltimore County

Access: Public

Randallstown Elementary School was originally a 4-room granite schoolhouse constructed in 1908. The original 1908 building was designed by F.T. Jones and built by G. Walter Tovell. Additions put on in 1926 and 1938 by Smith and May used similar form, height, style and materials as the original. The interior of the 1908 structure has been compromised by the installation of new offices, but the two additions remain remarkably intact, representing excellent examples of early twentieth century school architecture.

Randallstown Elementary School remains as a notable example of Baltimore County's support of progressive educational reform ideas circulating in the early part of this century. Reformists championed new architectural designs that made schools safer and more hygienic. Randallstown Elementary embodies the design ideals of the reform with its inclusion of an auditorium, classrooms for specific uses, large expanses of windows to allow natural light, and coatrooms inside each classroom. Throughout its history, Randallstown Elementary has served as a focal point for the Randallstown community and today remains the oldest operating Baltimore County School.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2558

1. Name of Property Randallstown Elementary School

historic	Randallstown School
other	Randallstown Consolidated School

2. Location

street and number	9013 Liberty Road	__	not for publication
city, town	Randallstown	__	vicinity
county	Baltimore		

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

name	Baltimore County Public Schools				
street and number	6901 N. Charles Street			telephone	(410) 887-3172
city, town	Towson	state	MD	zip code	21204

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	Map 77, Parcel 236
city, town	Towson	liber	folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__x__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
__x__public
_____private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
_____domestic
__x__education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
__x__social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
____ vacant/not in use
_____other:
_____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	1	objects
2	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
_____

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2558

Condition

x excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

Summary

Randallstown Elementary School, built of granite block, opened in 1908 as a 4-room schoolhouse in Baltimore County Maryland. Additions were put on in 1926 and again in 1938 using a form, height, style and materials consistent with the original building. The original 1908 building was designed by F.T. Jones and built by G. Walter Tovell. The 1926 and 1938 additions were planned by Smith and May, Consulting Architects and Huldreich Egli, Consulting Engineer, both of Baltimore. The interior of the 1908 structure has been compromised by the installation of new offices, but the two additions remain remarkably intact, representing excellent examples of early twentieth century school architecture.

Grounds

Randallstown Elementary School faces northeast to Liberty Road with Marcella Avenue to the south and west. Also on the grounds is the Former Health Center (BA-2796), a small rectangular cottage, located just east of the school and an American Legion monument to the north between the two buildings. The Former Health Center is a contributing feature of the overall site, while the memorial, consisting of a stone plaque, boxwood bushes, and a flagpole, is considered non-contributing. To the east, south of the Former Health Center is wooded with mature conifer and deciduous trees.

The site slopes toward the south and east, making the building only one story tall along the north and two stories tall to the south. A low concrete curved wall runs along the front of the school with a concrete sidewalk adjacent to it. This curved area delineates where a former driveway was located. A second sidewalk runs parallel to Liberty Road. Across Marcella Avenue to the west and slightly south of the school are (in north to south order) a playground, basketball and tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and an open field. A wooded area bounds the property to the south and west. In the area left between the original building and the wing formed by the additions is a staff parking area and a small triangular patch of landscaped garden.

Surrounding the school is a mix of residential and commercial properties. Across Liberty Road is the Randallstown Community Building, constructed of the same granite ashlar as the original school and its additions. The area behind the school, to the south, is occupied by houses and privately owned open space.

Exterior Description

Probably because of shape of the lot in which it is located, Randallstown Elementary School is an odd shaped building forming an obtuse L-shape. It is about twice as long as it is wide, along the Liberty Road side. The building can be accessed from a number of doors. The central door on the north facade, however, seems to be intended as the primary entrance, although few currently use it. The parking lot, child drop-off area and bus loading area in the rear of the building encourage the

use of doors along the west side and into the basement of the original building.

The 1908 building was originally a small symmetrical rectangular structure with one story above an elevated basement. In 1926, however, the addition of an auditorium to the east and classrooms to the south altered its form and nearly tripled the size of the school. Another addition extending the building further to the south was put on in 1938. Both additions use the same masonry techniques and materials as the original building. The entire building is roofed with composite shingles. There are currently three doors and four banks of windows along the north (main) elevation. The original entrance is toward the western end, making the façade asymmetric, but a single hipped roof covering the whole north portion gives it a sense of balance. Today, all windows are vinyl clad, but window openings were not altered.

The north facade of the building appears fairly uniform as both the original building and the addition were constructed of squared rough cut granite ashlar blocks arranged in irregular courses with beaded mortar. Two additional courses were added to the top of the1908 building to bring it up to the same height as the addition. The original door was located centrally in the 1908 building within a projecting pedimented entrance. The door was flanked by multipane sidelights and topped with a 5-light semicircular fanlight. The opening now contains 6/6 vinyl sash windows above paneled wood. When the addition was put on in 1926, another entrance was added through a central set of doors further east on the north facade. The granite staircase up to the original doors was removed sometime after 1938, but the marble cornerstone paying tribute to those involved in the inception and construction of the Randallstown School is still located at the lower west corner of where the door was.

The 1908 building has triple 2/2 vinyl sash windows flanking the former entrance and three 1/1 vinyl sash basement windows on either side. Historic photos show the first floor windows as large 8/8 wood sash flanked by narrower 4/4 wood sash windows. The basement windows are vinyl 2/2 sash. The first floor windows have granite lintels and sills. A granite water table with a sloped and scored upper edge surrounds the original building. The water table forms a continuous lintel for the basement windows on the 1908 end of the north side and a sill for the auditorium's windows. On the west and east sides, it acts as a belt course.

When the auditorium was added on the northeast corner of the building, the north facade nearly doubled in length. The builders used the same color and shape granite blocks, most likely from the same quarry. A central entrance with double metal doors opens into a hallway while another double door further to the east enters directly into the auditorium. Both continue the use of a fanlight as seen over the original entrance. Both have concrete staircases leading up from the curved sidewalk. There are two banks of windows which flank the auditorium entrance. Each contains a set of three

windows with four fixed panes above 2/2 vinyl sash windows. The lintels for these windows are concrete while the sills are formed by the granite water table.

In addition to the replacement of original windows with vinyl ones, the north facade has been modified with the addition of vinyl eaves and a vinyl pediment. The vinyl eave continues around the east side of the building up to where the auditorium joins the rest of the 1926 addition. Here the addition intersects the original block at an obtuse angle, extending from the southeast corner of the original building.

The fenestration differs from the auditorium to the additions (both the 1926 and 1938 additions have the same window type). The auditorium continues the use of four fixed panes above 2/2 vinyl sash windows. Here, however, the two outside sets are single, while the two inside sets are paired. The lintels on this part of the building are covered in vinyl.

The roof forms among the additions vary, as the auditorium has the same hipped roof as the original building, the 1926 addition has a flat roof, and the 1938 addition has a gable on hip roof. But the continuity of materials, fenestration size, and building height give this school a cohesive appearance. The granite appears to be from the same quarry and blocks are cut to the same sizes. Differences in the stone and the beaded mortar joints are difficult to detect, but a wider vertical joint runs where the 1938 addition abuts the 1926 structure.

Windows on the east and west sides of the additions are identical. Each side has five banks of windows, three in the 1926 structure and two in the 1938 annex. Each bank consists of six 1/1 vinyl sash windows, each with an additional fixed upper opaque blue pane. The sills are concrete while the lintels are of smaller vertical granite blocks.

Because of their different roof forms, the two additions have separate drainage systems. The 1926 addition uses internal drains to direct roof water through holes located high on the east and west facades and into metal scuppers and drainpipes. The 1938 addition, with its gable on hip roof sheds water into vinyl gutters along an eave. The two gablets formed by this roof contain vents.

The south facade of the school contains four banks of the same windows as are found on the east and west elevations, two on each floor. A small one-story concrete structure is attached to the school here, possibly containing HVAC or other systems equipment. The west facade is similar to the east with five banks of six windows. Towards the southern end is a stairwell with a bank of only three windows, located between the first and second floors. At diagonals to this window set are four single windows, again 2/2 with a fixed upper blue pane. Below this stairwell is another door into the building. There is another entrance along this side at the northern end. It has a modern metal door

flanked by three pane sidelights with a 10-pane transom above. The transom has its own set of 2-pane sidelights. The southernmost end of the west facade, where a play room used to be, is windowless.

The rear, or southwest, of the original 1908 structure is easily visible since the addition was erected off its southeast corner. There are two centrally located 5-panel wood doors beneath a shed roof. Each door has a four-pane transom and brackets support the shed roof. The doors are a half flight up from a small driveway. On either side of these doors are four 2/2 vinyl sash windows. Three basement windows are visible on the west side of the stoop and two on the east. These are a combination of 1/1 vinyl sash and 2-pane vinyl sliders. Close to the steps on the west side is a small half story flat-roofed granite addition, listed as a pump house in the 1926 plans. A newer flight of stairs leads down to the basement level immediately adjacent to the steps up to the first floor doors. The water table continues along the rear of the 1908 building, again creating a lintel course for the basement windows.

There is a centrally located chimney on the south side of the original building. The chimney was placed just in front of a gable, possibly a vent for the original building, which has been covered over. A similar gable appears on the west side of the 1908 structure. The granite water table continues here as well. There are no basement windows at the north corner of the west facade, but as the site slopes toward the south, there are two at the south corner. These are 1/1 vinyl sash windows. There are four first floor windows, three toward the northern end and one at the southern end. All are 2/2 vinyl sash. There are three additional 1/1 vinyl sash windows located higher up on the southern end of this facade, presumably for restrooms. There is another entrance to the building with steps parallel to the west facade leading down to the basement.

Interior Description

The central door on the north side, part of the 1926 addition, enters into a half flight of steps up to the main level. Directly to the east is the auditorium, currently used as a gym. Up the steps and to the west is the original building, which now houses the administrative offices and library. Very little of the 1908 interior remains. What was a four room building was divided in 1971 into offices and conference rooms, even splitting an original window between two offices with a new wall. The 1938 plans show the original entrance opening into a small vestibule and the proceeding into a hallway running north-south. To the west was a classroom, to the east was the library. Another hall running east-west entered into the other two classrooms at the rear of the building, a space currently occupied by the library. The library was completely renovated and systems shelving installed in 1958.

The ceiling throughout the entire building has been dropped, presumably to allow for air

conditioning, and is now made of acoustical tile. Floor tiles in the hallways are 12 inches square. Classrooms also have 12 inch tiles and the office floors are carpeted.

The main hallway extends to the south with identical classrooms on either side, three on each side for the 1928 addition and two on each side with two on the end for the 1936 addition. The division between the two periods of construction is virtually indistinguishable except for a low divider with firedoor midway down the hall. Otherwise, the materials and details are identical.

The hallway on the first floor contains wood dado moldings and baseboards with curved upper edges running the full length along plaster walls. Consistent features include the dropped ceiling with acoustical tile and recessed fluorescent lighting. The original drinking fountains are still present. Other features include historic 5-panel wood doors to auxiliary rooms and doors with nine lights above two wood panels for classrooms. The classroom door treatment is interesting; surrounding the doorframe are two projecting 2x4 boards which extend from floor to ceiling and are painted a darker tan to contrast with the cream colored walls. directly above the door is another tan board with a hollowed out oval section cut in it for decorative effect. Each classroom in both additions has two entrances off the hall at either end of the room, all with identical doors.

Inside, the classrooms appear uniform in size and shape. The 1938 addition replicates the 1926 rooms nearly exactly. Each room is approximately 23 feet wide and ranges from 28 to 33 feet in length. They all possess blackboards or bulletin boards on all sides except the window wall. They have plaster walls, acoustical tile dropped ceilings, suspended fluorescent lights, metal Venetian blinds, and 12-inch floor tiles. Each classroom has its own coatroom, located at one end, which is 23 feet long and four feet wide. The older rooms have two doors into the coatrooms, while the 1938 rooms only have one. All coatrooms have an exterior window (the sixth in the banks of six windows). They have a shelf running the length of the room with numerous coat hooks below.

Classrooms on the ground floor are replicas of those on the first floor. However, the interior hallway is of brick, laid in five-course common bond. Again the ceiling had been dropped and the floor and ceiling materials and the doors are the same. The doorways, however, are slightly recessed and have transoms above, which have been painted over. The hallway contains lockers on both sides at the northern end.

The only difference among the classrooms is in the rooms at the end of the hall in the 1938 addition. They enter off the end of the hallway to the south with one door each. They are slightly larger, measuring approximately 27 ½ feet long by 29 feet wide. On the first floor, this area was originally the cafeteria, part of the 1938 addition. It was converted into two classrooms in the early 1950s. On the ground floor, the space was originally a play room, but again was converted into two larger

classrooms in the 1950s. These two are accessed by descending a short flight of steps running to the east and west. The doors face in towards the hallway from the east and west.

The ground floor beneath the original building was originally the foundation area at the north and was probably used for storage at the south. The 1938 plans show a largely unused space with no windows on the north side or the northwest side, but with three windows at the southwest corner facing west and six windows facing south along the south wall. The space was likely used for storage and contained the boiler and sump pump. During the renovations of the 1950s, the space was excavated and a new internal stairwell was installed. This staircase, directly below the former central hallway of the 1908 building, leads to the kitchen and storage areas to the east and dining area to the west. This newly created space would have replaced the cafeteria at the south end of the first floor hall, which was then converted into classrooms.

The auditorium, just adjacent to the east of the original building still has its stage, but is currently in use as the gymnasium. It is entered through double swinging metal doors through the central stairwell area on the north side of the building. Another set of doors exits directly on the north and is capped by a 5-pane semicircular fanlight, which has been painted over. The floor is of 12-inch tile with athletic tape demarcating court boundaries. The walls are plaster and, while still quite high (about 25 feet), the high ceilings have been dropped. They are of acoustical tile with fluorescent box lights. There are three radiators suspended on the east wall between the windows. There were three sets of wood windows facing into the hallway on the west, which were painted over sometime after 1971.

The stage frame projects slightly into the room and has curved ends and a decorative molding. A frieze runs above the stage. Steps at the southwest corner of the gym lead to the backstage area, now used for storage, and a door from this area leads into the hallway. Fully modernized restrooms are located at either end of the hallway on both floors. They are on the east side of the building across from the stairwells.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2558

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	x education	__ industry	__ philosophy
1800-1899	x architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__
politics/government				
x 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	x social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Significance dates		**Architect**	F.T. Jones, Smith and May
Specific dates	1908, 1926, 1938	**Builder**	G. Walter Lovett

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register _____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

"In nineteen o six
Our school was designed
With quality education in mind..."
Randallstown School Song

Summary

Randallstown Elementary School remains as a notable example of Baltimore County's support of progressive educational reform ideas circulating in the early part of this century. Schools began to be seen as centers for both academic *and* social edification. Reformists also championed new architectural designs that made schools safer and more hygienic. Randallstown Elementary embodies the design ideals of such noted twentieth century school architects as John Donovan and William Bruce with its inclusion of an auditorium, classrooms for specific uses, large expanses of windows to allow natural light, and coatrooms inside each classroom. Although the school has undergone several additions and other alterations, the classroom area remains remarkably intact. The exterior also retains its original appearance and integrity. Throughout its history, Randallstown Elementary has served as a focal point for the Randallstown community and today remains the oldest operating Baltimore County School.

History

Randallstown, Maryland is located in the Second District of Baltimore County, just northwest of the city of Baltimore. In the 1877 *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, the Second District is mentioned as "one of the most flourishing and rapidly growing places in the County." Randallstown is among the list of expanding communities in an area primarily devoted to farming and granite mining[1].

Because of the largely agrarian nature of Baltimore County, schools were often small one-room

schoolhouses scattered throughout the countryside. Schools at North Branch, Rockdale, and Powells Run (later called Hernwood) were built between 1841 and 1900[2]. Construction began at Randallstown School in 1906 and the school opened its doors in 1908. The Harrisonville School was added to these Second District schools in 1914[3].

Before 1880, a one-room frame building on McDonogh Road served as a schoolhouse for Randallstown area children. After 1880, classes were held in four rooms of the Knights of Pythias Hall, located immediately east of the site of the future school. Conditions at the Hall were less than satisfactory for teaching school (some sources allude to a rat infestation) and the decision was made to erect a new school building[4]. However, this decision brought on a controversy over where the new building should be located. Several other Second District localities wanted the new school, but Randallstown insisted it stay within the town. Leading residents including Edward Fite, R. Pearce Choate, B. John Black, Henry Claggett, William Cowan, and others held a public meeting with school commissioners. Propositions for building the new school in locations outside of Randallstown were discussed. When no agreement was reached, John Ruff, a native of Randallstown who had attended classes in the Knights of Pythias Hall, declared he would build the school at cost if it was kept in Randallstown. Ruff was a partner with his father in a masonry contracting business. The commissioners accepted this bid and construction began in 1906[5].

The property of the original building, on the corner of Liberty Road and Marcella Avenue had been deeded to the Board of County School Commissioners in 1881[6]. Shortly after the construction, in 1909, the two lots behind the school were acquired. In 1920, the Board of Education procured the 4 ½ acre lot to the south and west of the school across Marcella Avenue where the ball courts and playing field are now located. The Knights of Pythias deeded another addition of land in 1926[7]. Part of the additions and the Former Health Center are located on this double lot. The Knights of Pythias Hall, where classes were taught from 1880 through 1908 was demolished. The total land now owned by Baltimore County Schools at the Randallstown site is 6.932 acres.

The architect is recorded on the 1908 cornerstone as F.T. Jones and the builder is G. Walter Tovell. Architects for the 1926 and 1938 additions were Wilson L. Smith and Howard May. Both were Baltimore natives who worked for the firm of Parker, Thomas & Rice. In 1913, they formed their own partnership, which lasted until Smith's death in 1931[8]. The partners were consulting architects for the Baltimore County and later the State Department of Education. They designed several County and private schools, as well as several University of Maryland Buildings and the Baltimore Trust Building[9].

Jones' original 4-room school, called simply the Randallstown School, was opened in 1908. The small building facing north on Liberty Road emulated the nearby North Branch School (1878) in

both style and materials. Both were constructed of granite blocks quarried in nearby Granite, Maryland[10]. Stone from the Granite quarries was also used in such buildings as the Library of Congress, Treasury Building, and parts of the inner walls of the Washington Monument in Washington, DC. Locally, stones from the Granite quarries can be seen in the Baltimore City Courthouse and Post Office and the old Baltimore County Courthouse[11]. A period photograph shows the Harrisonville School as a similar rectangular granite building. These similarities in scale, style, and materials gave early Baltimore County schools a uniformity long before the ideas of standardization among public school design became widely accepted.

In 1917, students from the Rockdale School, further south along Liberty Road, were sent to join the Randallstown School. In 1918, high school classes were added and in 1926 North Branch, Hernwood, and Harrisonville Schools were simultaneously consolidated with Randallstown and the school was renamed the Randallstown Consolidated School[12]. To accommodate this influx of students, classes were held in the basement, in temporary structures behind the school, and again in the Knights of Pythias Hall next door. In 1926 an addition was put on to the south and east sides of the school adding 12 new classrooms, the auditorium, and storage space. Another addition in 1938 added eight more classrooms of the same size as well as a cafeteria on the first floor and playroom on the ground floor. The last high school classes were held in 1931 and the school operated as an elementary and junior high until 1949, when it finally became Randallstown Elementary School[13].

Because of the growing number of students, renovations in the 1950s excavated under the original building to create a new kitchen and cafeteria. The old cafeteria and playroom were made into four new classrooms. The auditorium was also converted for use as a gym. In 1967 renovations included the installation of aluminum windows and dropped ceilings with acoustical tile, and the creation of the administrative suite.

The original 1908 school building and two subsequent additions possess a remarkable sense of cohesiveness on the exterior. The continued use of granite blocks of similar color, shapes, and sizes as well as the same beaded mortar adds to the compatibility of the additions. The employment of the same architects, Smith and May for both additions, again contributes to the continuity of materials, form, and detailing.

Education in the Twentieth Century

Progressive education reformers of the early twentieth century wanted to change the role of the school to encompass social as well as intellectual aspects of education. When Albert S. Cook became Superintendent of Baltimore County Schools in 1900, these changes began to take place[14]. Like other progressive educators, Cook favored streamlining the educational system. Very early in his tenure, he made clear his intention to consolidate schools, especially small rural schools, as a

critical step in providing better education. Such measures aimed at making the school system more efficient are apparent in the consolidation of Rockdale, North Branch, Hernwood, and Harrisonville Schools, among others with Randallstown School.

An interest in the uniformity of school design and the introduction of hygiene into education began to bring about changes in how architects approached school design. Classroom size, lighting, and ventilation were of utmost importance. Rather than the one-room schoolhouses of the previous century, twentieth century schools were organized by grade level. Individual classrooms for specific uses were now included, such as sewing rooms, laboratories, home economics rooms, and manual training rooms.

The new attitude towards education in America is what makes the interior of Randallstown Elementary so significant. This building stands as a testament to early twentieth century educational philosophy and architectural design. That so little of the 1926 and 1938 buildings has been altered is remarkable. The 1908 interior has been severely compromised by the installation of the administrative suite and library, but the two additions retain their integrity almost to perfection.

The architecture of schools became an important topic among designers in the early twentieth century with the publication of several books on the subject. These guides stress uniformity of design, efficiency, and the hygiene of school buildings. Everything from size, shape, siting, and materials was included to direct architects to make progressive decisions about their designs. Even minutia such as window shades, wall colors, and blackboard materials were included to ensure the regularity of design.

Authorities such as William Bruce, John Donovan, and Felix Clay recommended that schools be no more than two stories to create safer, healthier, and more easily managed buildings. Because sunlight was of the utmost importance, classrooms were to have eastern or western exposure. Bruce advocates classrooms be 22 x 32 feet for 40 students with about 13-foot high ceilings[15]. Donovan recommends a range of 18 to 24 x 27 to 31 feet, depending on whether the room has five or six rows of desks[16]. Randallstown, with its classroom measurements in both additions of 23 x 28 to 33 feet, clearly fits into the ranges advocated by these scholars on school design.

Randallstown also relies heavily on Donovan's classroom designs for placement of windows, coatrooms, and blackboards. As seen in Donovan's publication of 1921, Smith and May repeated a design that shows blackboards on three walls, six windows, and a coatroom at one end accessible by two doors[17]. They included a window in the coatroom, as recommended by Donovan, as well as adequate ventilation for the drying of coats.

The design of Randallstown also follows intellectual thought of the day in its concern with light and adequate fenestration. Natural sunlight was crucial in the turn of the century and shortly after because it was seen as a disinfectant. Sunlight was linked with hygiene and the prevention of the spread of disease. In architecture, especially school buildings, maximum light was encouraged. In rooms wider than 22 feet, window size was to equal 1/4 of the total floor space[18]. Both Bruce and Donovan recommend grouping windows to reduce the breakup of the light source into patches of light. Creating these banks of windows also eliminated extra materials thereby maximizing natural light. Again, Smith and May followed these guidelines at Randallstown by placing the tall windows in groups of six. These windows were designed with thin metal muntins and sashes to create as little interruption in the glazing as possible.

The sixth window lights the coat closet in each classroom. As specified by Bruce, the coatrooms receive direct sunlight, do not open into the corridor, only into the classroom, are not less than four feet wide, and have hooks and shelving[19]. The addition of coatrooms in each classroom was an advancement in thought in the early twentieth century. It connects with the new concern for health and the spread of transmissible diseases and lice. Coatrooms meant that each child had his or her own hook so that coats would not touch. Adequate ventilation was also considered critical inside coatrooms to help dry garments and again prevent the spread of illness. To provide ventilation, the coatrooms at Randallstown have a duct for air intake and two doors each. In at least some of the classrooms, the lowest panel was removed from the 5-panel doors to maximize airflow. This presence of coatrooms in every classroom discloses Baltimore County's interest in better health and hygiene among its students. The construction of the Health Center just after 1926 bears further witness to the County's concern for the welfare of its population.

The addition of rooms dedicated to Manual Training and Domestic Science in the 1926 addition to Randallstown is further evidence of the growing concern with social education. The 1926 inclusion of an auditorium, or Assembly Hall, as it was known at the time, was also a factor of modern school design. Assembly Halls brought in a more social aspect to elementary education, allowing the entire student body to gather at one time[20]. Often they were built for the use of the community as well as the school. As recommended, Smith and May designed the auditorium with a separate exit to the outside, to allow for community events to take place without having to enter through the school building.

All of these advances in thought and design indicate the architects' reliance on modern educational philosophy and the most current trends in school design. The school's significance to the Randallstown community is reflected in former Principal Stephen Mackert's words in the school's 80th anniversary publication: "The building that is now known as Randallstown Elementary is a cornerstone of this community. Its long eighty-year history parallels the development of the county

and stands as a staunch symbol of the values we have place[d] on the educational growth of our children."[21] Randallstown Elementary School, Baltimore County's oldest operating school, stands as a reminder of early twentieth century architectural objectives and as a manifestation of Randallstown's and Baltimore County's dedication to education.[22]

Notes

[1] *Atlas of Baltimore County Maryland.* Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

[2] *Randallstown Elementary School 1908-1988.* Baltimore: Duvall Printing, 1988.

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] *Ibid.*

[6] Whitney, William, C.E. *Survey Plat of Property of Board of Education of Baltimore County Maryland.* 25 January 1938.

[7] *Ibid.*

[8] Obituary, Howard May. *Baltimore Sun* 29 January 1941.

[9] Obituary, Wilson L. Smith. *Baltimore Sun* 9 September 1931.

[10] "Granite National Historic District." 14 July 1997.
http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~granhist/natlhistoric.html (22 November 1999).

[11] *Ibid.*

[12] *Randallstown Elementary School 1908-1988.*

[13] *Ibid.*

[14] Kelly, Barbara Dennis. *Progressive EducationalReform of the Baltimore County Public School, 1900-1920.* College Park: University of Maryland, 1985, p.146.

[15] Bruce, William George. *School Architecture: A Handy Manual for the Use of Architects and School Authorities*. Milwaukee: American School Board Journal, 1910, p. 65.

[16] Donovan, John J. *School Architecture: Principles and Practices*. New York: Macmillan, 1921, p. 254-55.

[17] *Ibid*, p. 254

[18] Bruce, p. 67.

[19] *Ibid*, p. 89.

[20] Donovan, p. 320.

[21] *Randallstown Elementary School 1908-1988.*

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont Region

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930); Modern Period (1930-present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: School

Historic Environment:

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): School

Known Design Source:

BA-2558

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Continuation Sheet 9.1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area 6.932
Acreage surveyed
Quadrangle name Ellicott City Quadrangle scale

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Anne Brockett, Architectural Historian
organization	URS Greiner Woodward Clyde
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
city or town	Gaithersburg, MD 20878

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Pllace
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

References

Atlas of Baltimore County Maryland. Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Bruce, William George. *School Architecture: A Handy Manual for the Use of Architects and School Authorities.* Milwaukee: American School Board Journal, 1910.

Clay, Felix. *Modern School Buildings, Elementary and Secondary.* London: B.T. Batsford, Ltd., 1902.

Crewe, Amy C. *No Backward Step Was Taken: Highlights in the History of the Public Elementary Schools of Baltimore County.* Baltimore: Teachers Association of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1949.

Donovan, John J. *School Architecture: Principles and Practices.* New York: Macmillan, 1921.

"Granite National Historic District." 14 July 1997. http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~granhist/natlhistoric.html (22 November 1999).

Kelly, Barbara Dennis. *Progressive Educational Reform of the Baltimore County Public School, 1900-1920.* College Park: University of Maryland, 1985.

Obituary, Howard May. *Baltimore Sun* 29 January 1941.

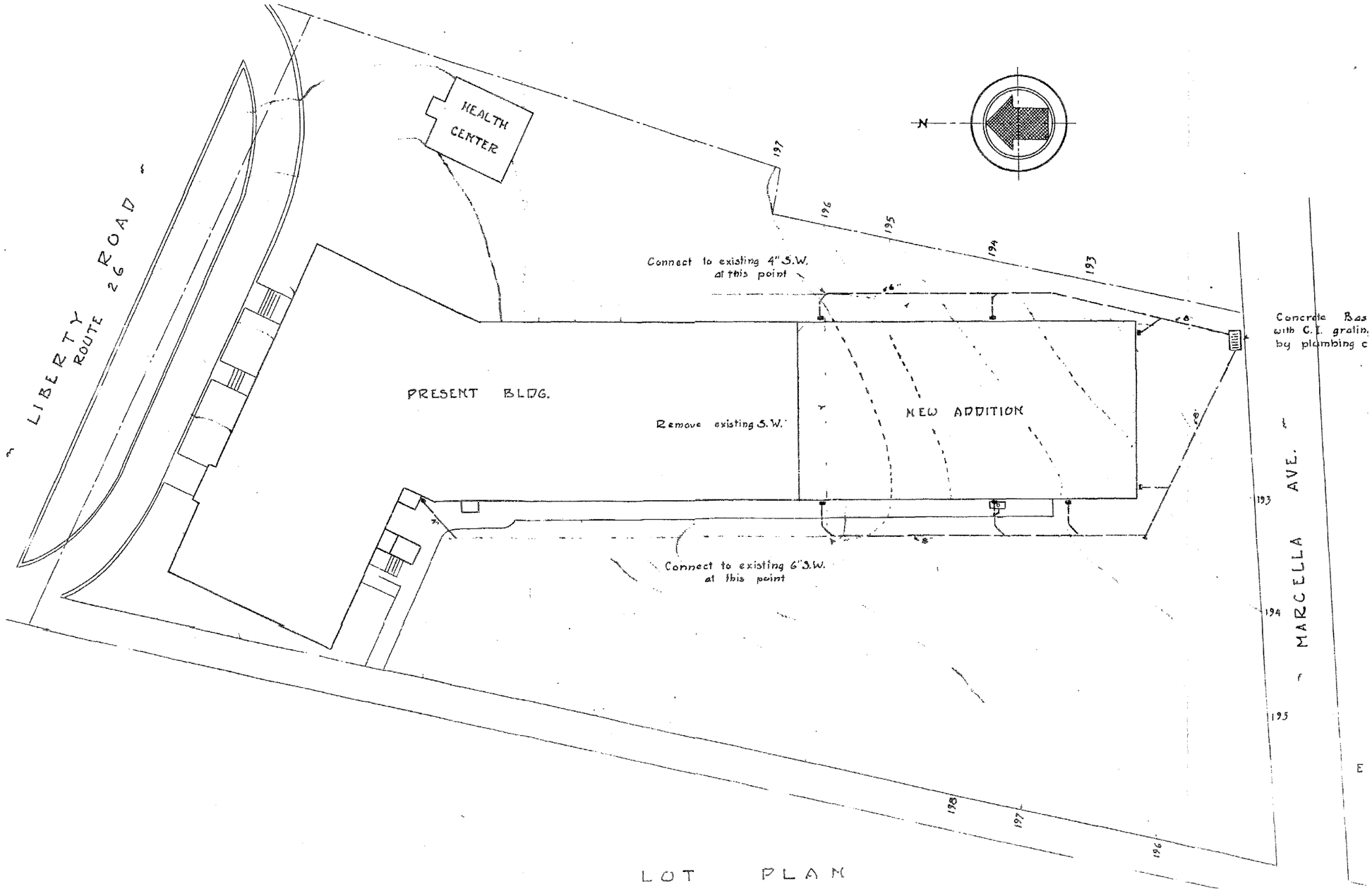
Obituary, Wilson L. Smith. *Baltimore Sun* 9 September 1931.

Phillips, Jesse Choate. "Recollections of Randallstown." *History Trails* 13(2):1, 6-7.

Randallstown Elementary School 1908-1988. Baltimore: Duvall Printing, 1988.

Whitney, William, C.E. *Survey Plat of Property of Board of Education of Baltimore County Maryland.* 25 January 1938.

BA-2558



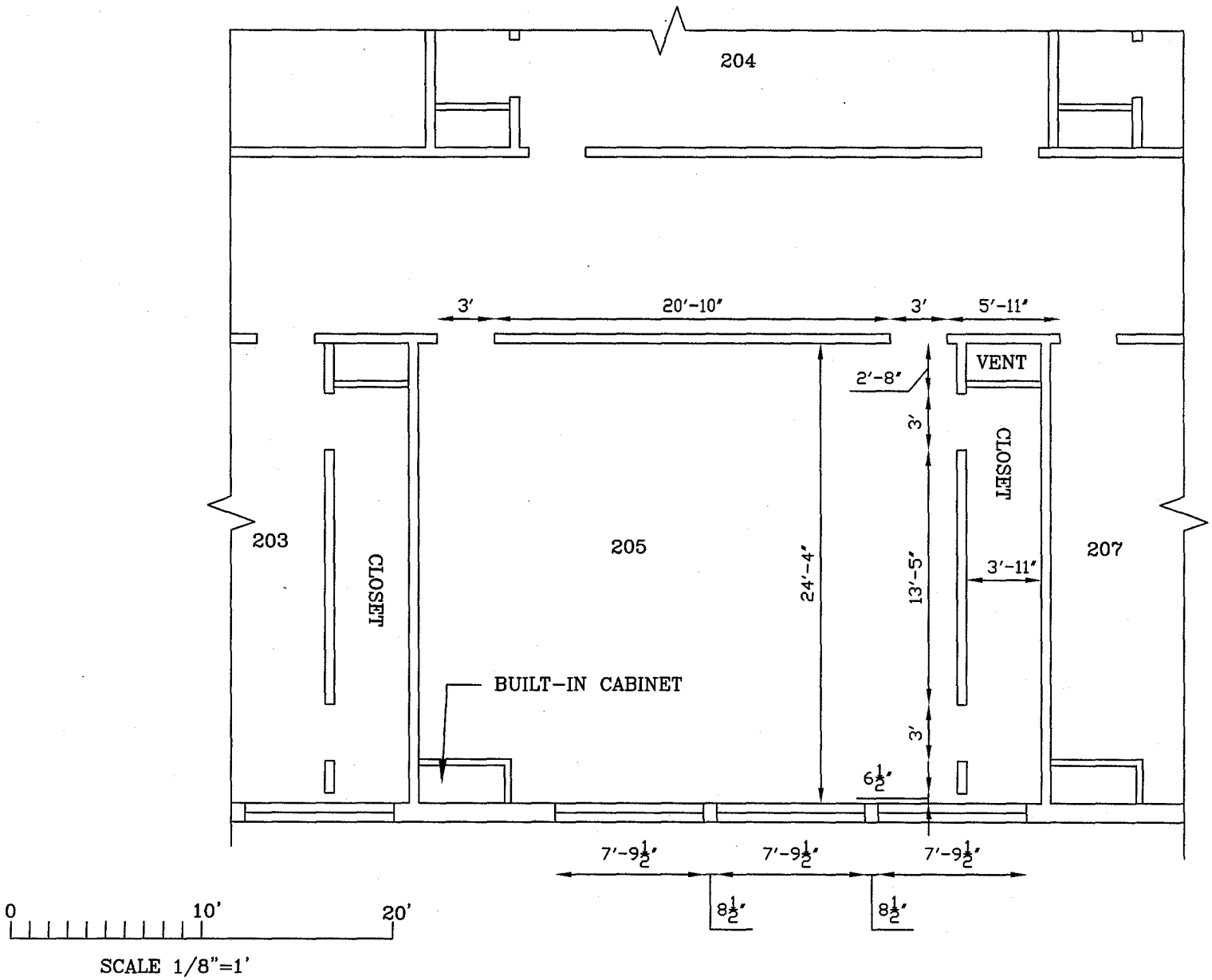
LOT PLAN

TITLE **Randellstown Elementary School**
BA-2558, 9013 Liberty Road, Randellstown, MD
Site plan

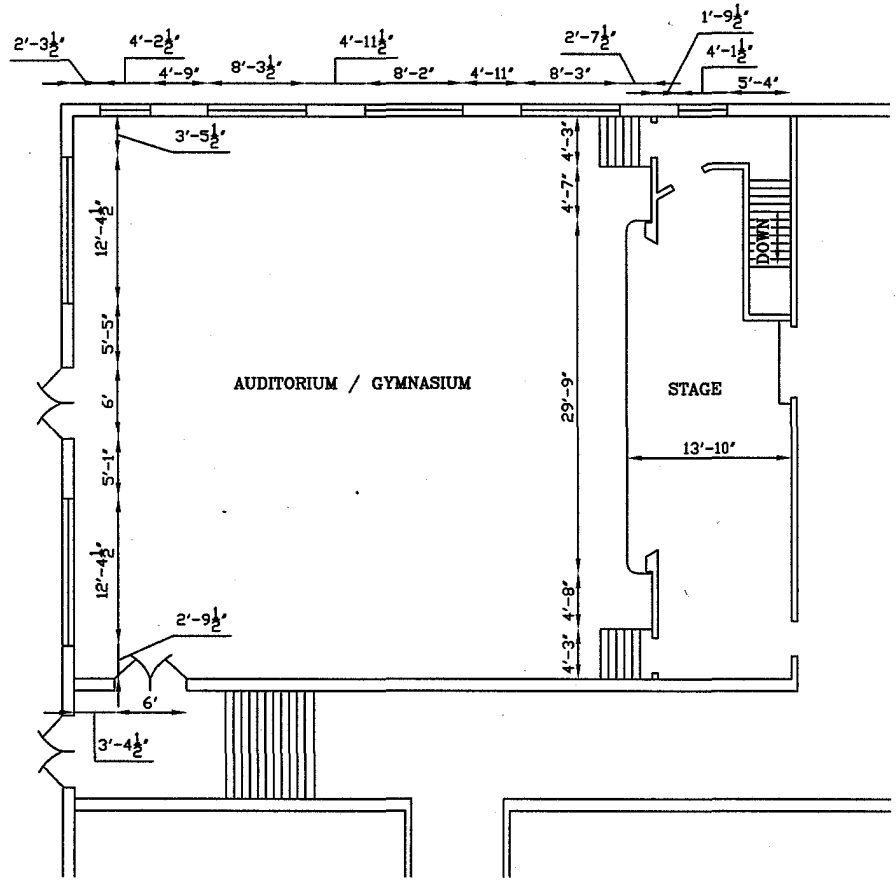
DR BY	SLP	12-6-99
CHK BY	AB	12-6-99

PROJ NO D10000102604

URS Greiner Woodward Clyde



RANDALLSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BA-2558)
TYPICAL CLASSROOM
9013 LIBERTY ROAD
RANDALLSTOWN MARYLAND

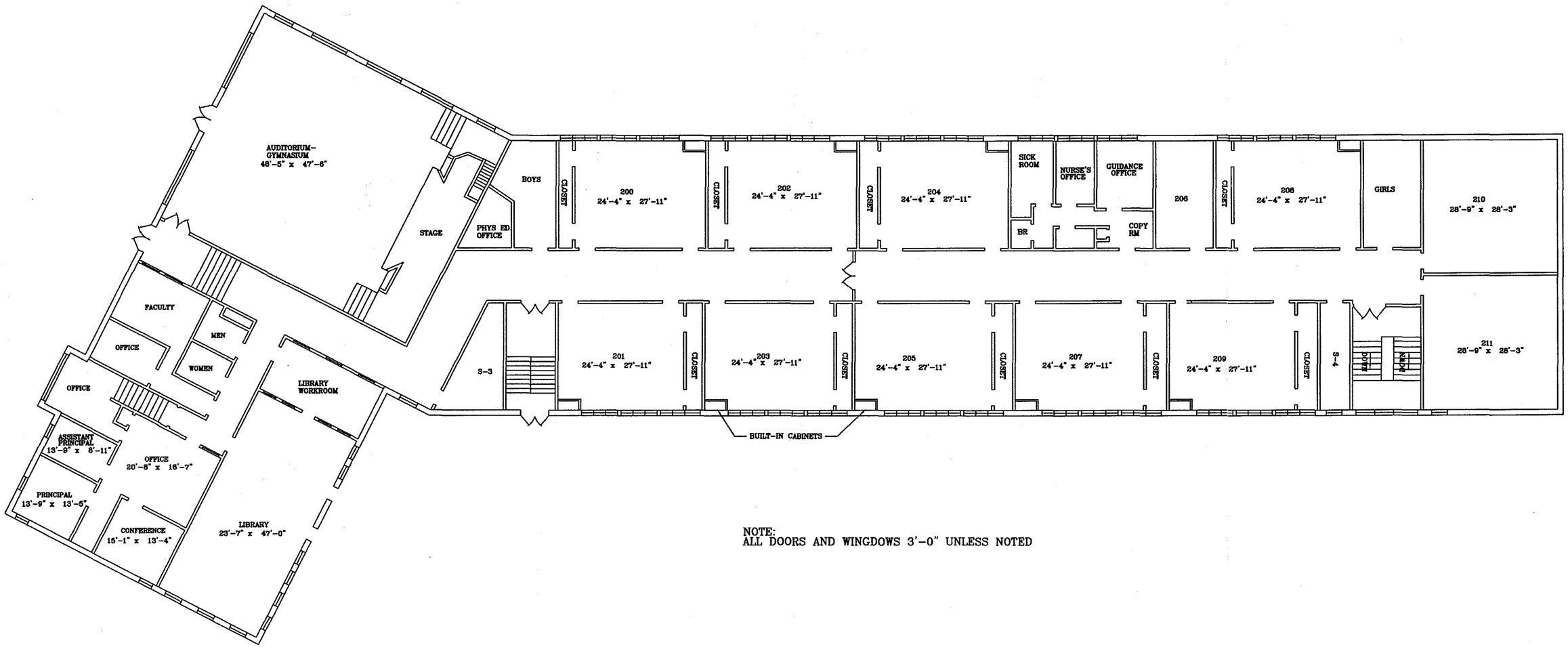


0 10' 20'

SCALE 1/16"=1'

RANDALLSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BA-2558)
AUDITORIUM/GYMNASIUM
9013 LIBERTY ROAD
RANDALLSTOWN MARYLAND

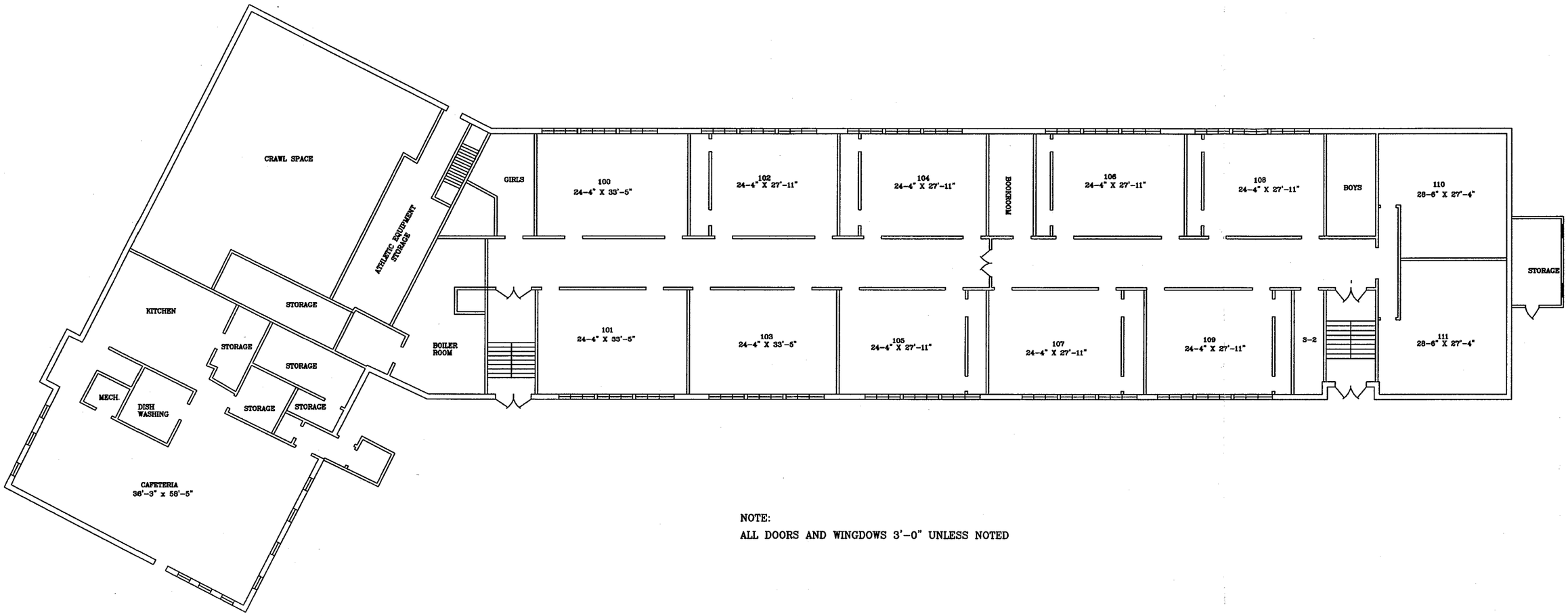
BA-2558



NOTE:
ALL DOORS AND WINGDOWS 3'-0" UNLESS NOTED

RANDALLSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BA-2558)
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
9013 LIBERTY ROAD
RANDALLSTOWN MARYLAND

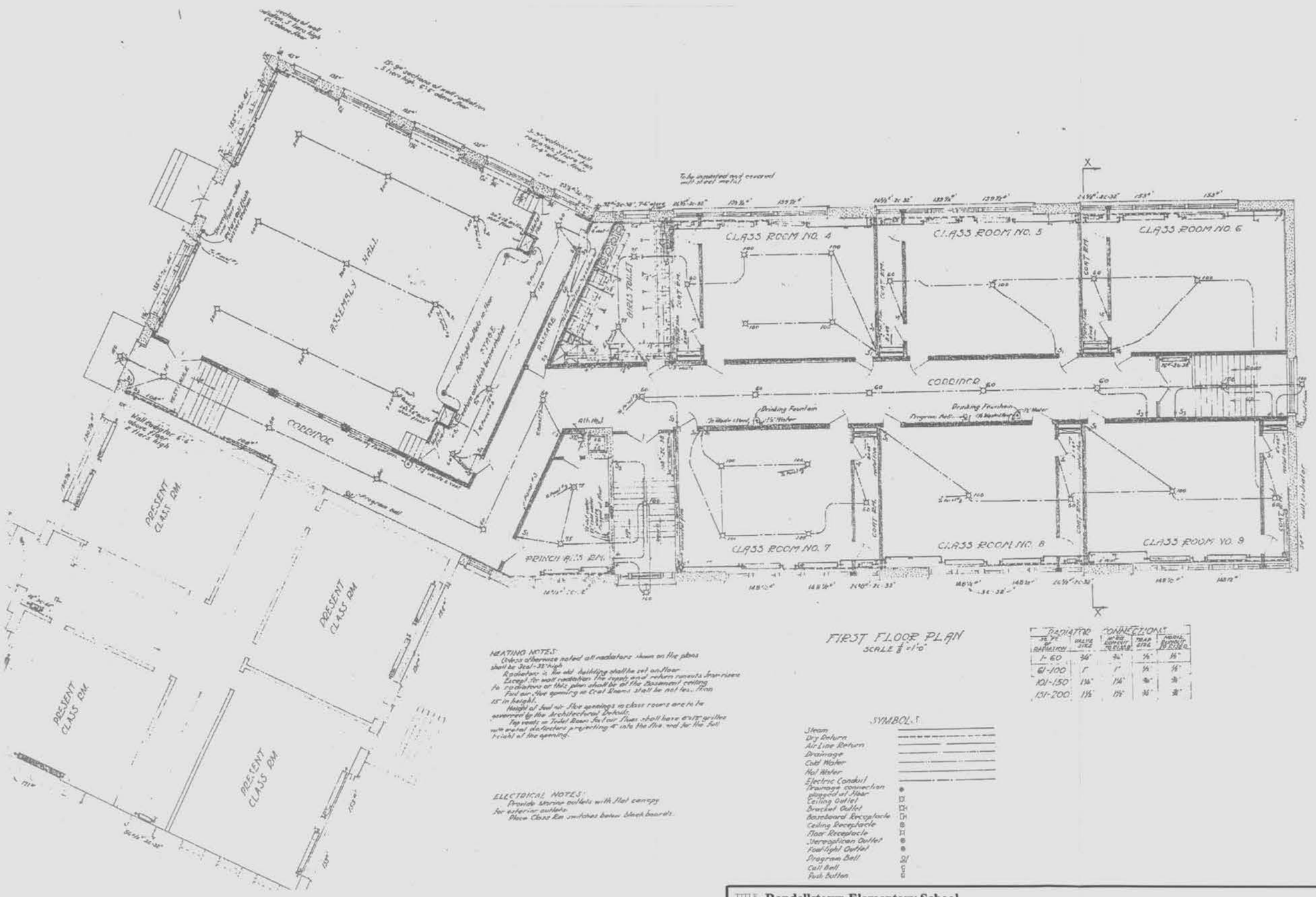
BA2558



NOTE:
ALL DOORS AND WINGDOWS 3'-0" UNLESS NOTED

RANDALLSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BA-2558)
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
9013 LIBERTY ROAD
RANDALLSTOWN MARYLAND

BA-2558



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

HEATING NOTES:
Unless otherwise noted all radiators shown on the plans shall be 26"-32" high.
Radiators in the old building shall be set on floor.
Except for wall radiators the supply and return runouts from risers to radiators on this plan shall be at the basement ceiling.
Foul air flue opening in Coat Rooms shall be not less than 15" in height.
Height of foul air flue openings in class rooms are to be governed by the Architectural Details.
Top vent in Toilet Room foul air flues shall have a cup grille with metal deflectors projecting 4" into the flue and for the full height of the opening.

ELECTRICAL NOTES:
Provide weather outlets with flat canopy for exterior outlets.
Place Class Rm switches below black boards.

RADIATOR	CONNECTIONS			
No. of SQ. FT. of RADIATION	VALVE SIZE	HOT WATER SUPPLY & RETURN	TRAP SIZE	HOT WATER RETURN & DRAIN
1-60	3/4"	3/4"	1/2"	1/2"
61-100	1"	1"	1/2"	1/2"
101-150	1 1/4"	1 1/4"	3/4"	3/4"
151-200	1 1/2"	1 1/4"	3/4"	3/4"

SYMBOLS

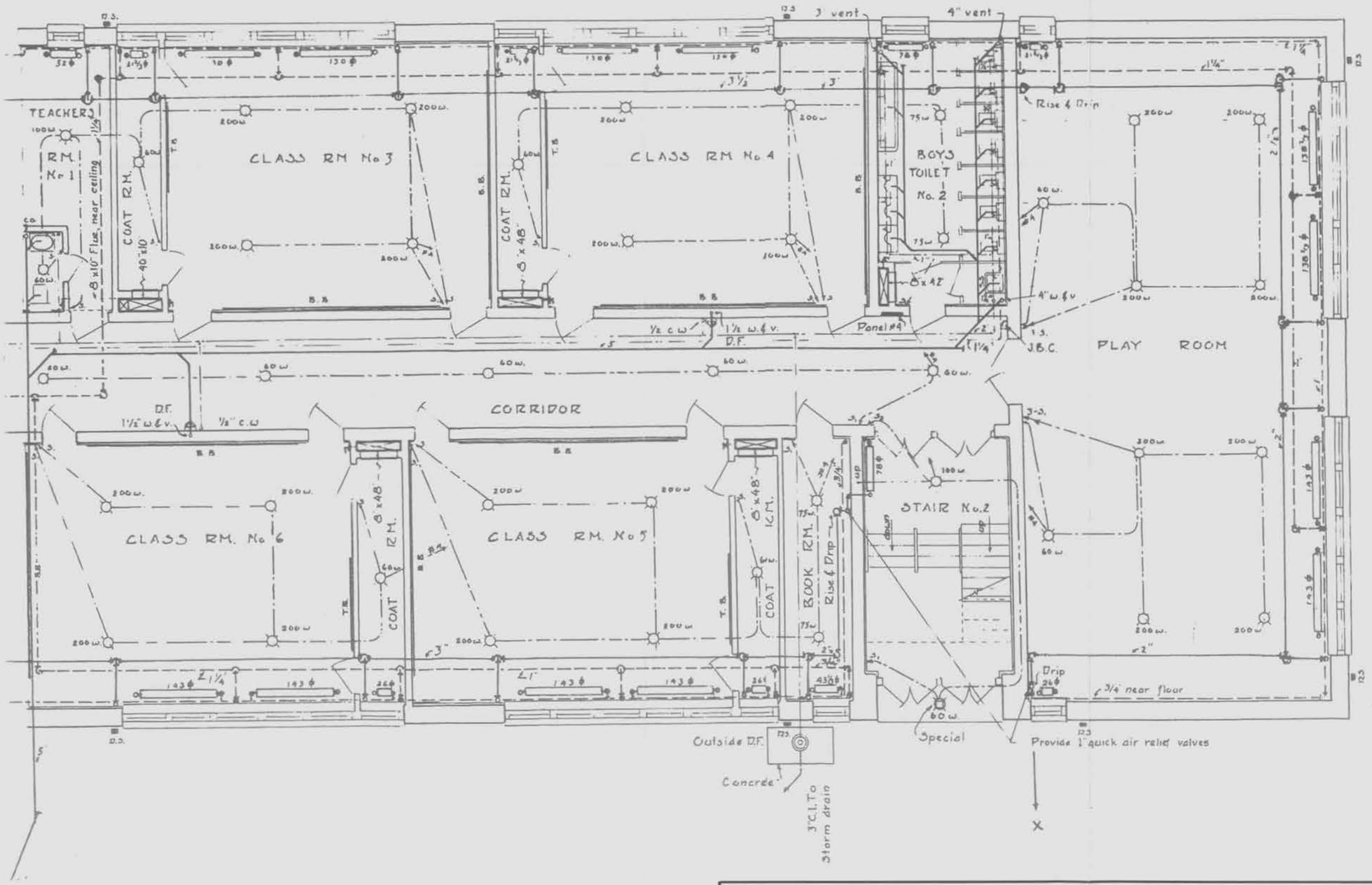
Steam	
Dry Return	
Air Line Return	
Drainage	
Cold Water	
Hot Water	
Electric Conduit	
Drainage connection plugged at floor	●
Ceiling Outlet	⊠
Bracket Outlet	⊠
Baseboard Receptacle	⊠
Ceiling Receptacle	⊗
Floor Receptacle	⊠
Stereoptican Outlet	⊗
Foot light Outlet	⊗
Program Bell	P
Call Bell	C
Push Button	B

TITLE **Randellstown Elementary School**
BA-2558, 9013 Liberty Road, Randellstown, MD
First floor plan showing original 1908 building and 1926 addition.

DR BY	SLP	12-6-99	PROJ NO D10000102604
CHK BY	AB	12-6-99	

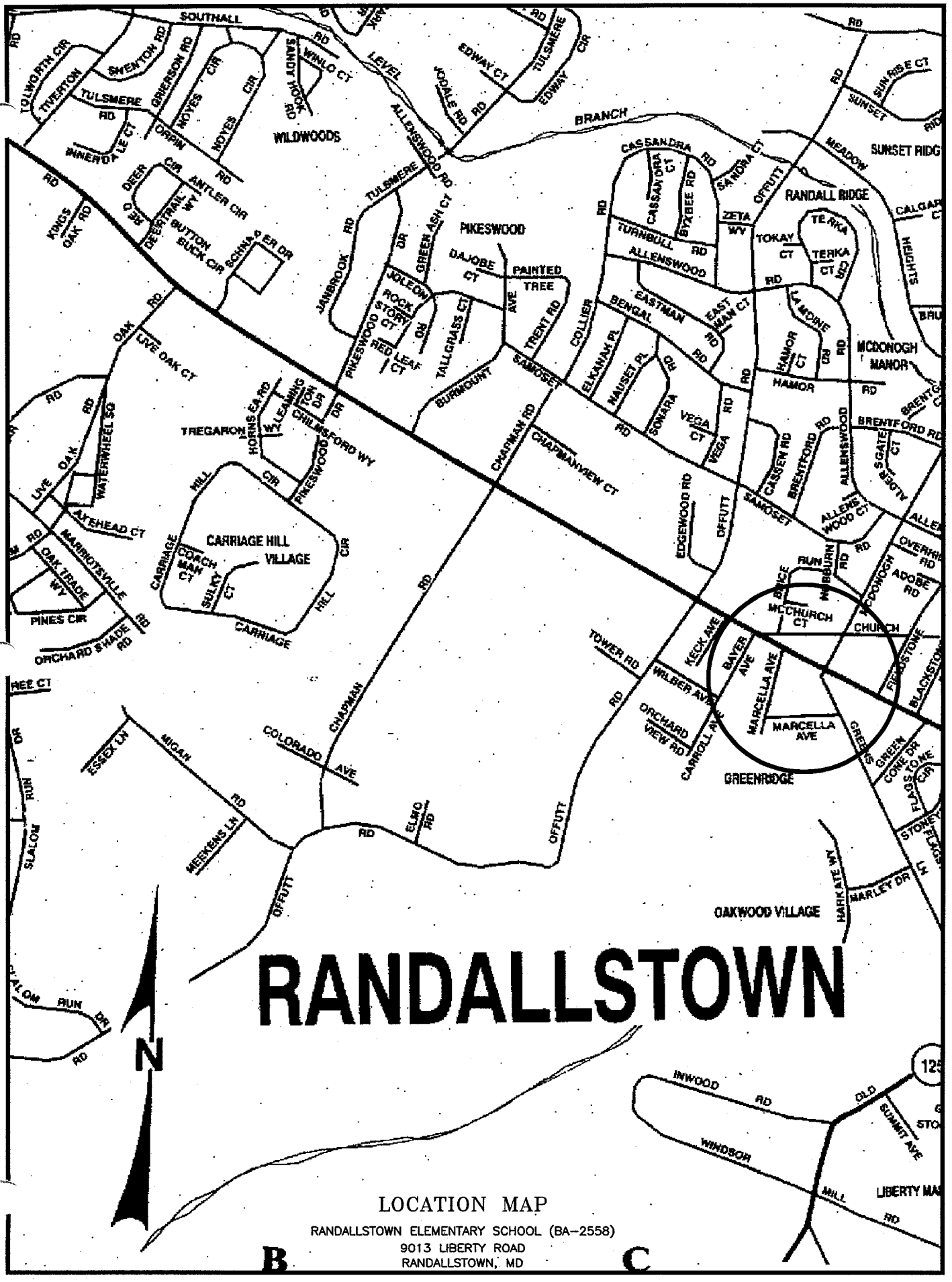
URS Greiner Woodward Clyde

BA-2558



TITLE **Randellstown Elementary School**
BA-2558, 9013 Liberty Road, Randellstown, MD
Ground floor plan of 1938 addition. Note: Cafeteria located on first floor above play room.

DR BY	SLP	12-6-99	PROJ NO D10000102604	**URS Greiner Woodward Clyde**
CHK BY	AB	12-6-99		



LOCATION MAP

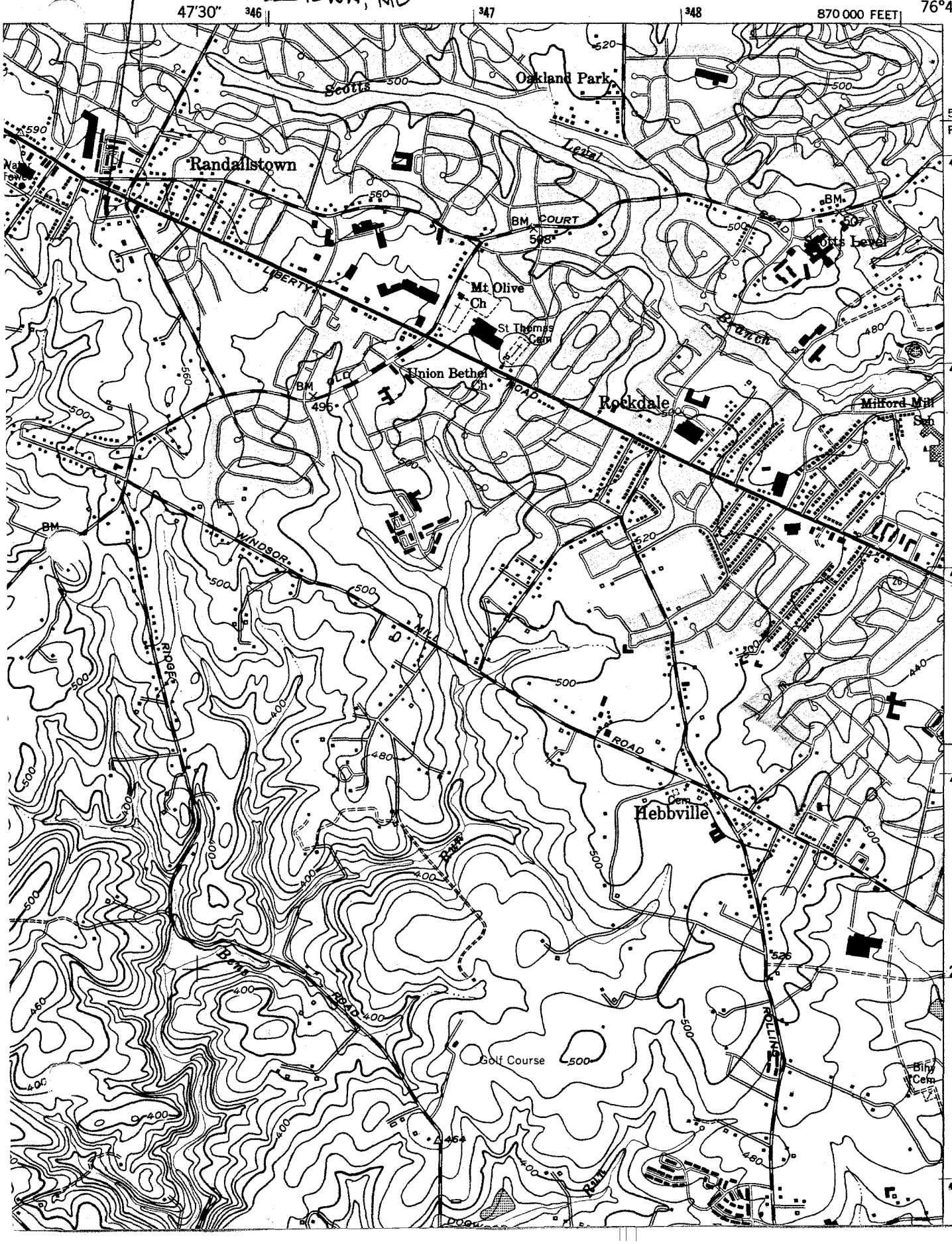
RANDALLSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BA-2558)
9013 LIBERTY ROAD
RANDALLSTOWN, MD

B C

RANDALLSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BA-2558)
9013 LIBERTY ROAD
RANDALLSTOWN, MD

ELLICOTT CITY QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5662 I NW (COCKEYSVILLE)



< > 5.60 11-01 N4N-02AU 445

PA - 7552
Crooked Creek Elementary School
Bellevue, Ohio 1915
Architect [illegible]
1 of 1 [illegible]
N elevation, original entrance
[illegible]

< > 5.60 11-01 N4N+02AU 445

RANDALLSTOWN SCHOOL

1908

School Commissioners

Thos B. Todd Pres't Reister Russell

Sam'l M. Shoemaker John Arthur

G. Herbert Rice Frank G. Scott

Trustees { R. Pearse Choate Geo. E. Lyons
B. John Black

Albert S. Cook Supt. Schools John Ellershner Ass't Sup't

F. T. Jones Arch't C. Walter Tovell Builder

< > 5.60 11-02 N4N-11AU 445

[illegible]
Randolph-Macon College
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
West elevation of Long building

#1 of 24

< > 5.60 11-03 N4N+0SAU 445

PA 245.9
Parkside Elem School
Baltimore City Pub Sch
Alice Bennett / [illegible]
Neg. at MSA SHPO
Exterior elevation of [illegible] building, W elevation of
additions, + porches

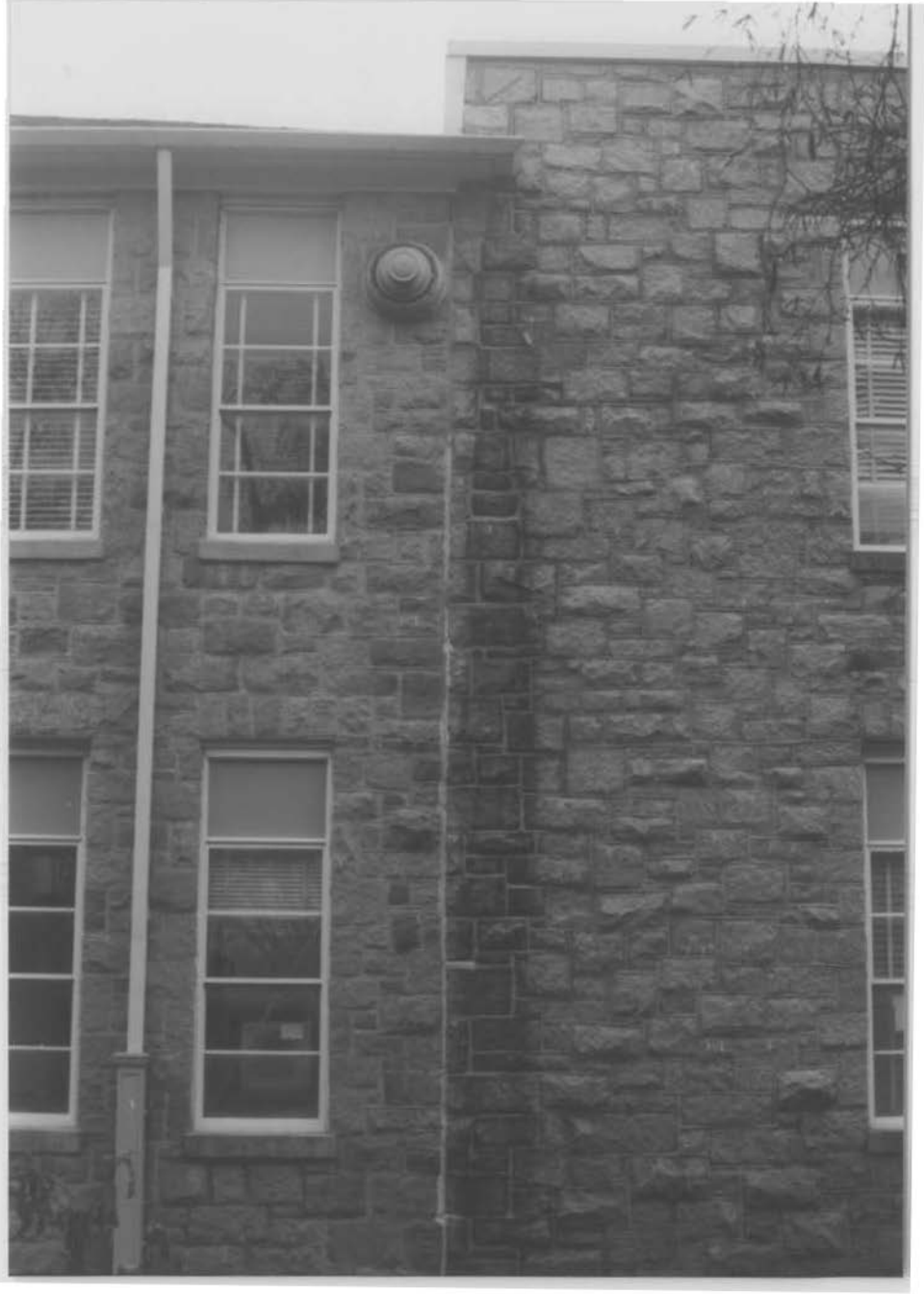
#5 of 24

< > 5.60 11+00 N4N+01AU 445

< > 5.60 11-02 N4N+00AU 445

BA-2558
Randallstown High School
Baltimore County MD
Alice Brocket / 11-24-81
Negro HS Cultin
South elevation, [illegible] addition
#7 of 24

< > 5.60 11+00 N4N-07AU 445



< > 5.60 11+00 N4N-02AU 445

< > 5.60 11-01 N4N-02AU 445

BA - 3504
Randallstown Historic District
Baltimore Co. MD
Anne Bricker / 11-24-09
Neg at MD SHPO
View East on Marcella Ave.
#10 of 24

< > 5.60 11-02 N4N+0ZAU 445

BA-2558
Randallstown High School
Baltimore Co. MD
Alice Brackett/ [illegible]
NED at Mt. [illegible]
View SW across Lucille Ave to Lucille
Dowd and [illegible] Dingfield.
11 of 24

< > 5.60 11-02 N4N+05HU 445

< > 5.60 11+00 N4N-03AU 445


RENT-A

< > 5.60 11-02 N4N-03AU 445

K.A. - 21500
Randallstown Elem. School
Baltimore County Md.
Line Breaker/1-24-88
Neg. on file SHPO
Landscaped area and parking lot

#14 of 24

< > 5.60 11+00 N4N+00AU 445


PLAYSHAPER

< > 5.60 11-02 N4N+00AU 445

< > 5.60 11-01 N4N+03AU 445


209
Welcome!

MD

-97

Classroom

7 of 24

< > 5.60 11-01 N4N-05AU 445


Geometric Shapes
y under the sa

BC [illegible]
Randolph Elem. School
Baltimore Co., Md.
[illegible]
Neg. at MHS
[illegible]

8 of 24

< > 5.60 11-03 N4N+0SAU 445


On Friendship
RAVENS
LOCKER ROOM
Values That Work!
THE SOLAR SYSTEM
Never settle for less than your best.
NATIVE AMERICANS
November

BA-2558
Randallstown Elem School
Baltimore Co., MD
Anne Brackett / HGA, Inc.
Neg. with M. Sayles
Classroom with coatroom doors
#19 of 21

< > 5.60 11-01 N4N-01RU 445


THE SOLAR SYSTEM
ULTRIX
McGraw-Hill
SHOW IT

Pa 2558
Randallstown Elem. School
Baltimore Co. MD
Anne Brocket / 1974-77
Reg 3 [illegible]
Classroom Wreaths
#[illegible]

445 DH00+N4N 10-11 09.5 < >

PA-2358
Randallstown High School
Baltimore County MD
Anne Brodnitz 11-24-97
Negro HS Stage
Smallow Interior

#1 of 24

< > 5.60 11-01 N4N-09AU 445

< > 5.60 11+00 N4N-02AU 445

< > 5.60 11+00 N4N-03AU 445


TEACHERS

PA-254-3
Randallstown Elem. School
Baltimore Co. MD
Anne Brackett/11-21-79
Neg. at MD SHPO
Administrative office installed in 1960's building
#21 of 24

< > 5.60 11-01 N4N+00AU 445

31-2028

Randallstown Elementary School

[illegible] Liberia [illegible]

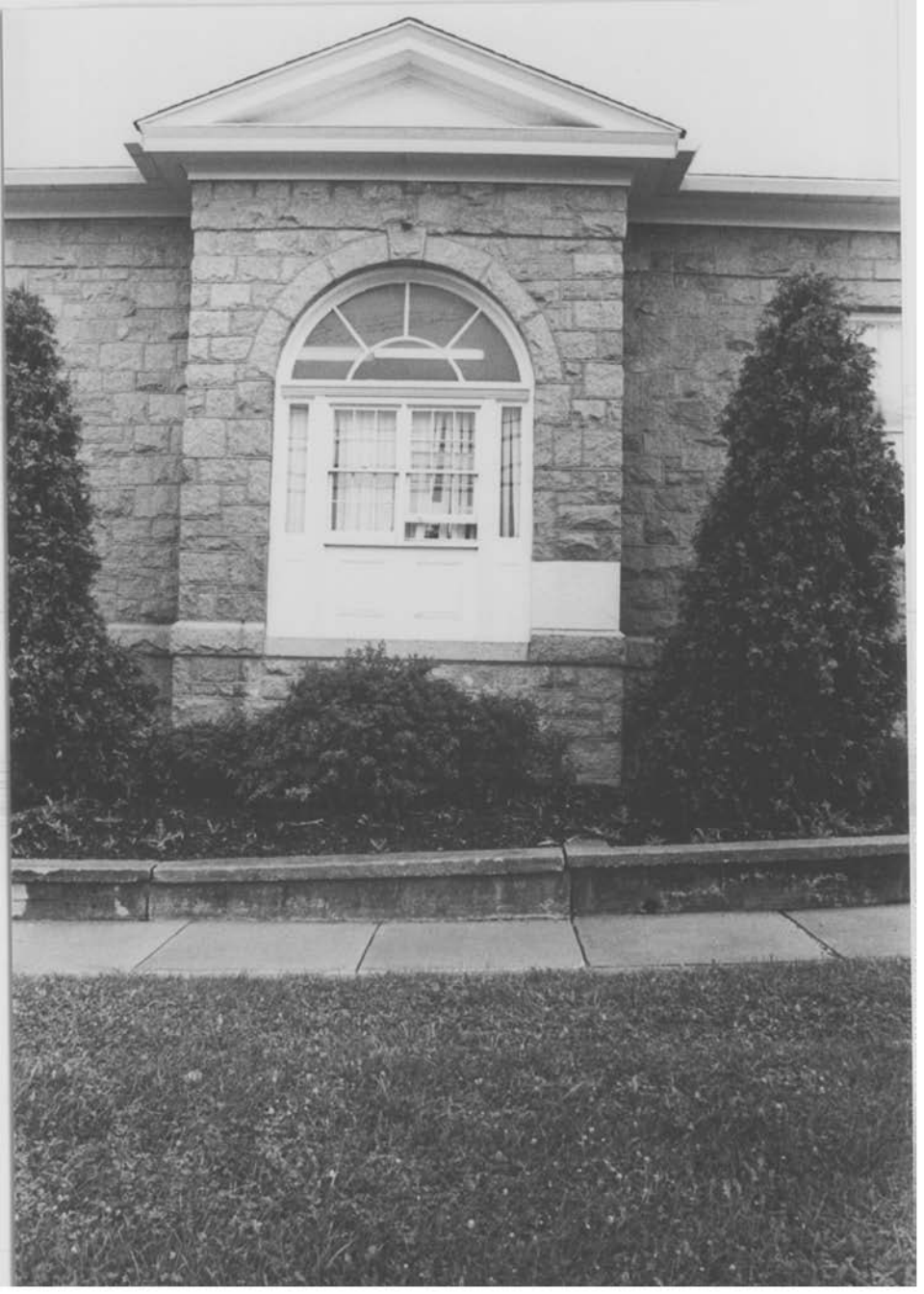
[illegible], Baltimore County, MD

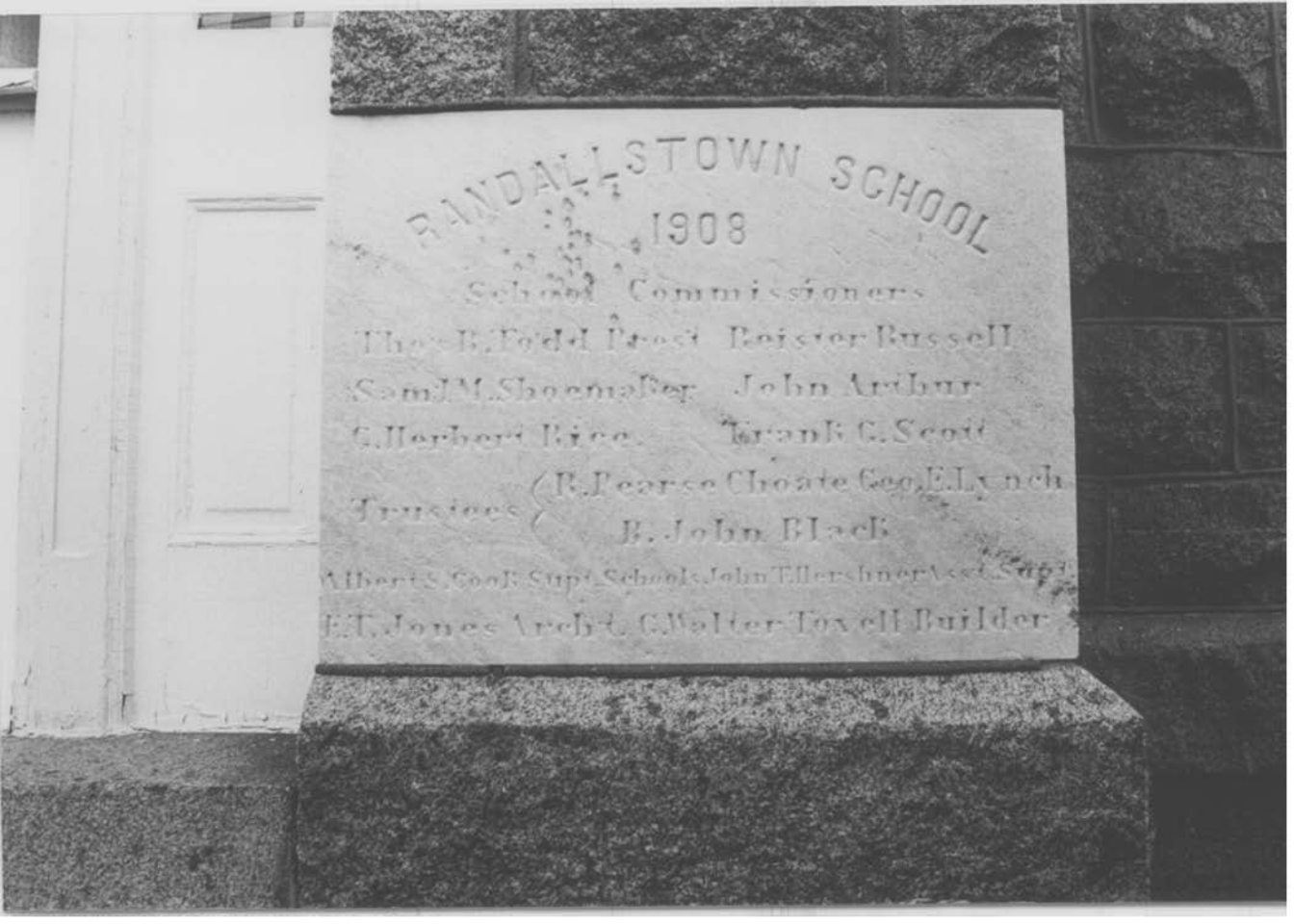
Jeffrey Nelson

7-29-00

Neg. at M-H

Northwest corner pan




RANDALLSTOWN SCHOOL
1908
School Commissioners
Thos B. Todd Pres. Reister Russell
Sam'l M. Shoemaker John Arthur
G. Herbert Rice Frank G. Scott
Trustees
R. Pearse Choate Geo. E. Lynch
B. John Black
Albert S. Cook Supt. Schools John T. Hershner Asst. Supt.
E.T. Jones Arch't. C. Walter Toxell Builder

[illegible] 8

[illegible] Street

[illegible]

[illegible]

Jeffrey Dunn

[illegible]

[illegible] of MIT

Northwest [illegible]

[illegible]

Pa[illegible] Elementary [illegible]

[illegible] Liberty Rd.

Randallstown, Baltimore County, M[illegible]

Jeffery [illegible]

[illegible]

Nov. 87 MHT

[illegible] (interior original building (L))

and [illegible] (Cafeteria/gymnasium (R))


EXIT

PA [illegible]

Fundaliotown Elementary School

[illegible] Rd

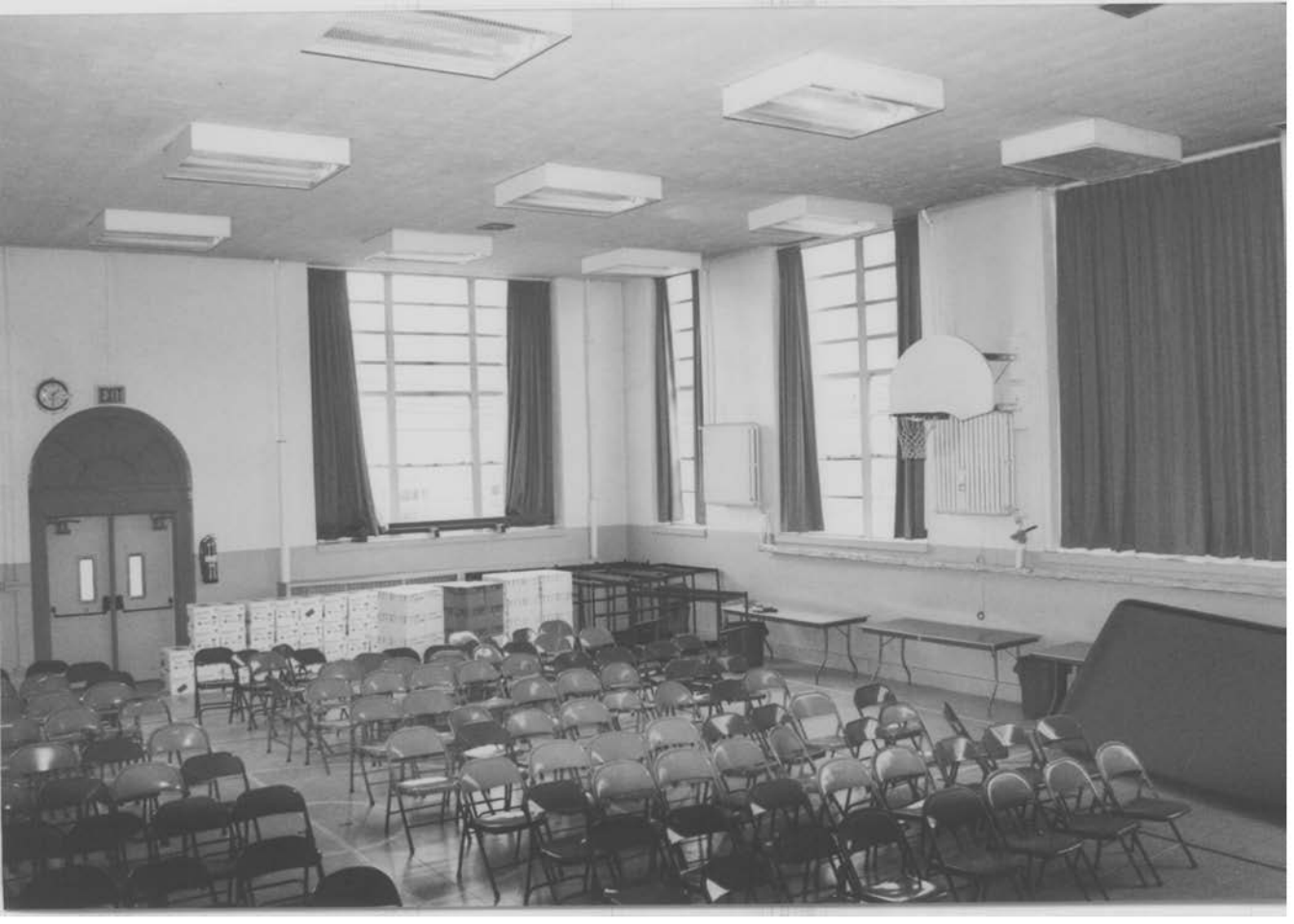
Fundamental [illegible] Co [illegible]

[illegible]

1.24 co

Nay at MHT

Main door and hallway


EXIT

BA-2532

Randolphstown Elementary School

9013 Library

Randolph [illegible] County, NJ

Jeffery [illegible]

[illegible]

Negative NHT

Auditorium/[illegible], view from stage
down to exit to [illegible]

[illegible]
Randallstown Elementary School
9013 [illegible] Ave
Randallstown, Baltimore County, MD
Jeffrey Brown
7.24.90
Neg at MHT

Auditorium/Gymnasium, view from stage
toward [illegible] to Library

[illegible]


EXIT

[illegible] 59

[illegible] School

9013 Liberty Rd

[illegible]

Jeffrey [illegible]

[illegible] 24 [illegible]

Neg w/ MIT

[illegible]

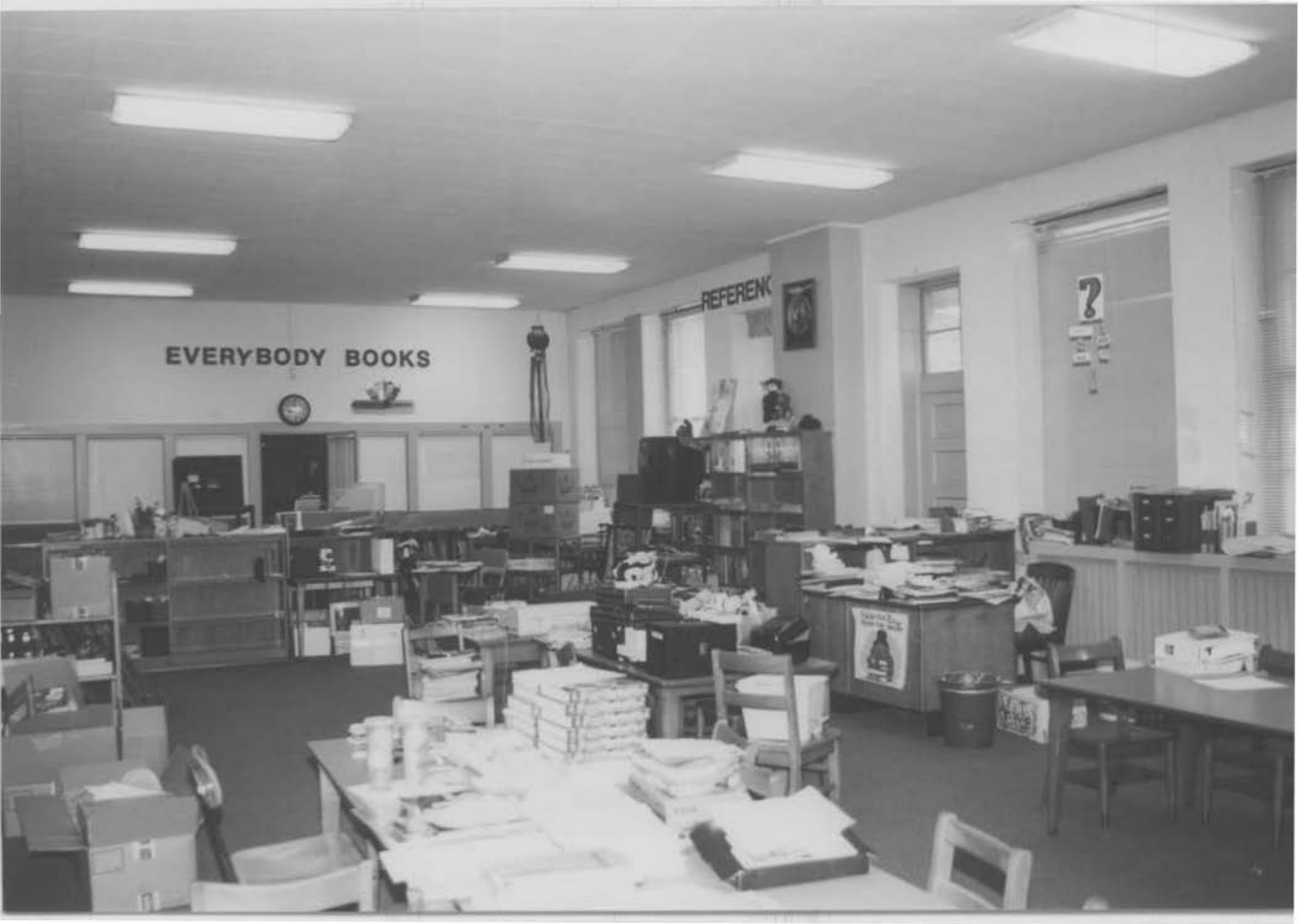
BA-2558
Randallstown Elementary School
9013 Liberty Rd
Randallstown, Baltimore County, MD
Jeremy [illegible]
7/04
[illegible]

[illegible] / [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

11 of [illegible]

Post office


CTION
NON-FICTION


EVERYBODY BOOKS
REFERENC


105

Ft. Geo's

Randallstown Elementary School

Gers Lilestone Rd

Randallstown, Baltimore County, MD

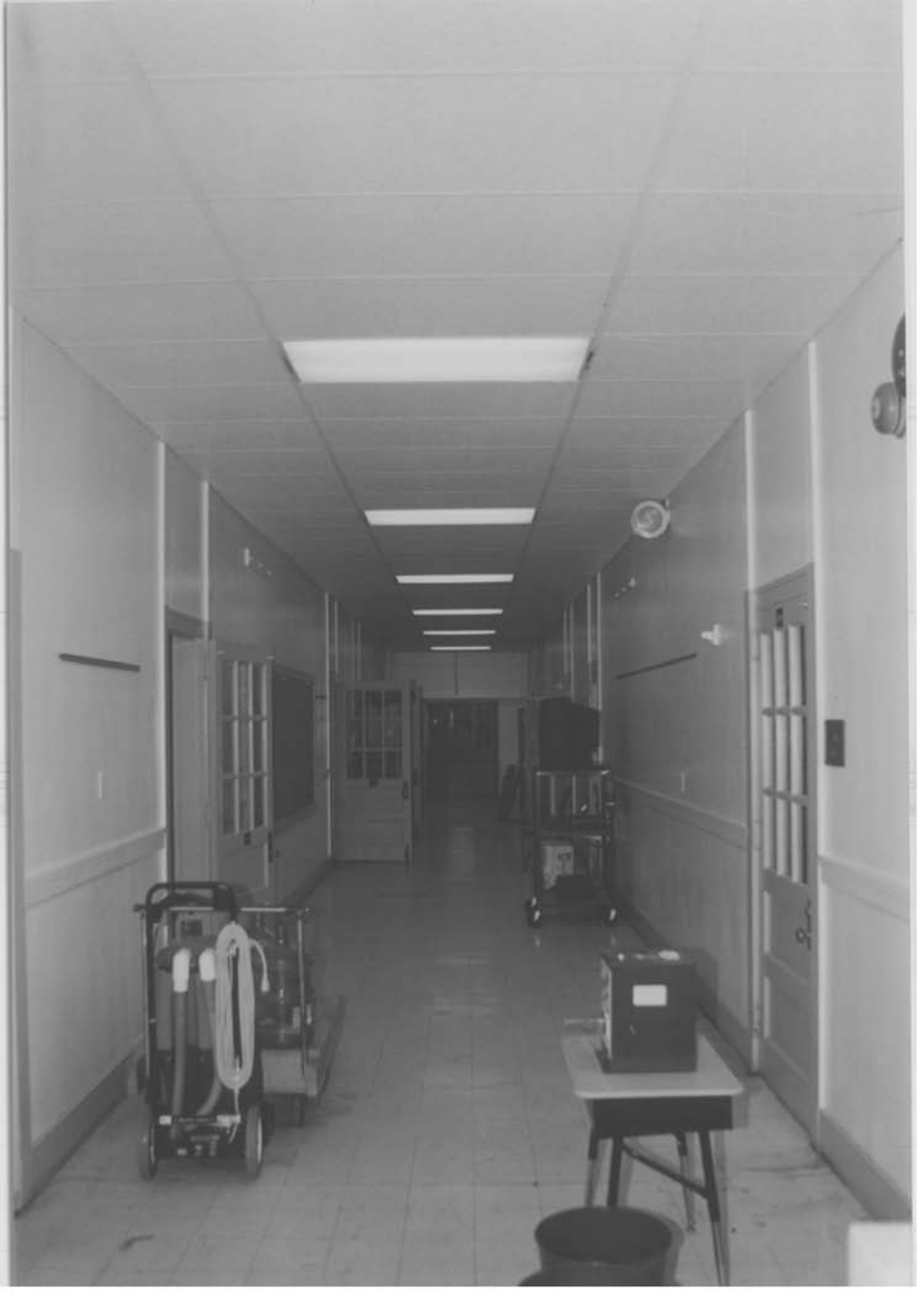
Jeffrey Dudden

7/24/88

Mkg at NIH

Department of HEW

20-E-32




200

[illegible] Elementary School

[illegible]

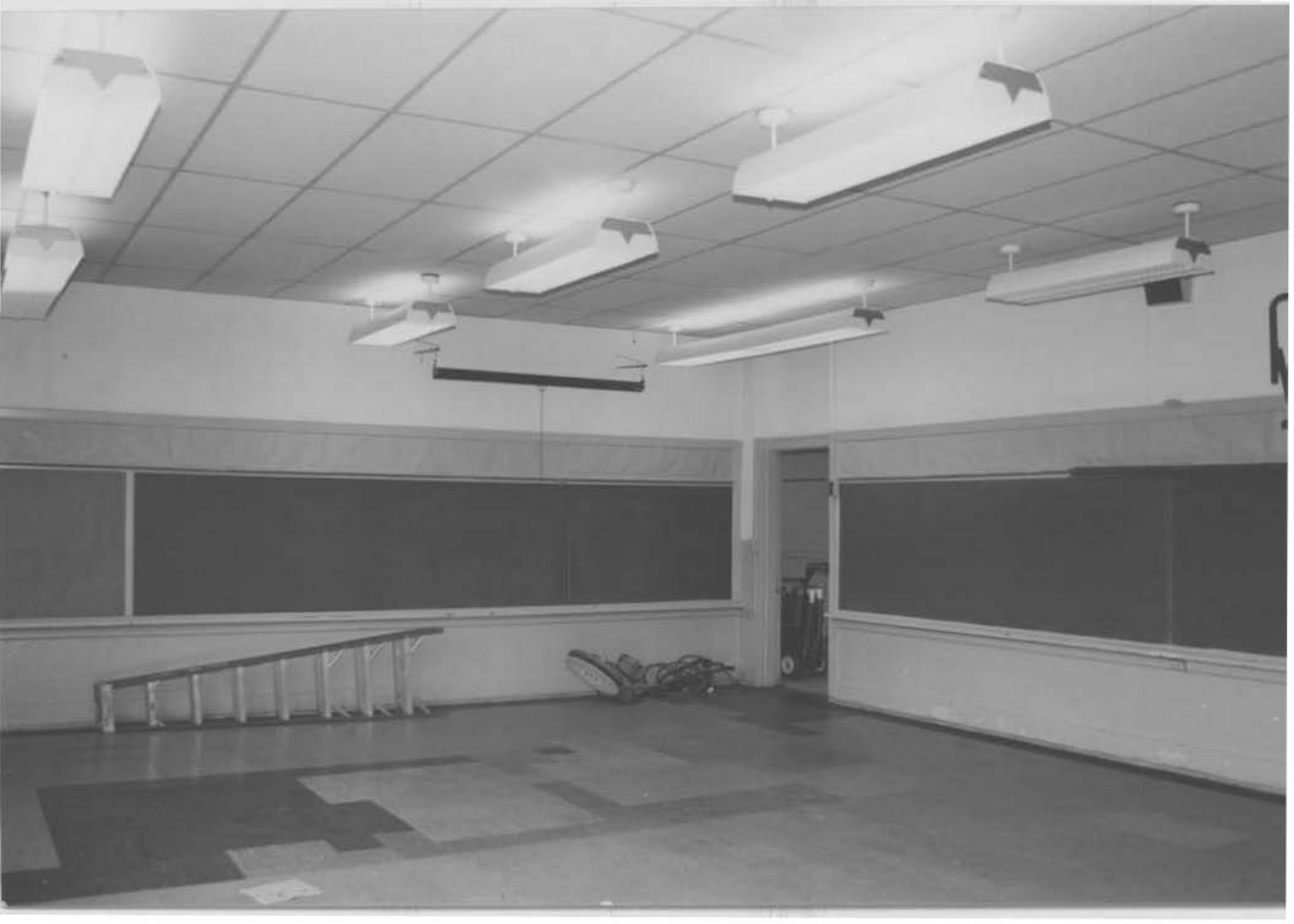
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

Foundation & Primary School

across [illegible]

[illegible] Earthquake [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 24.00

[illegible]

[illegible] classroom [illegible] showing door to hall

[illegible]

BA [illegible]

Randallstown Elementary School

[illegible] Rd

Randallstown [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Flag of MHT

Typical classroom drawing built in [illegible]

1A [illegible]

Kindergarten [illegible] Library School

5013 [illegible]

[illegible] Faculty [illegible]

[illegible] Dr. [illegible]

[illegible]

Neg. at [illegible]

Typical [illegible] classroom,

[illegible]


WELCOME
WELCOME
TO


WELCOME
TO OUR SCHOOL


EXIT

SINGLE GRAVE DETAILS