

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

Property/District Name: Catonsville Elementary School Survey Number: BA-2916

Project: Proposed Window replacement Agency: S/PSCP

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

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

Located on Frederick Road just west of the Baltimore beltway, Catonsville Elementary School has served as an educational facility since its construction in 1909. Designed by an unknown architect, the original section of the building is a two story brick structure. The main facade is composed of three sections with central entrance pavilion slightly recessed from the flanking blocks. Building accents were accomplished in stone with horizontal banding, diamond motif on the cornice and water table. The entrance displays a gothic arch surrounding replacement doors, transom and sidelights. Built as a high school to replace the existing brick high school on Winters Lane, it served this purpose until the mid-1920s when a larger high school was built on Bloomsbury Avenue. To accommodate the elementary students, this Frederick Road school received two additions, one in 1929 and 1934. The local firm of Smith and May was responsible for the additions as well as many other county schools of the same period like the Bloomsbury High School. Later additions occurred in 1955 and 1970. The history of the school reflects the suburbanization of the area; the County had to provide necessary educational space as employment opportunities expanded the population in the twentieth century. As a principal education building serving the community since 1909, this school is significant for its association with public education in Catonsville. Therefore, I believe it is eligible for the Maryland Register.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: compliance file, with this form

Prepared by: Stephanie Schaefer, Buchart Horn Architects

Lauren Bowlin  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

April 7, 1999  
Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR program

4/7/99  
Date

[Signature]

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)
- 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
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

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

V. Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): educational facility

Known Design Source: 1909 ?? 1929, 1934 additions Smith and May

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

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Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

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

Located on Frederick Road just west of the Baltimore beltway, Catonsville Elementary School has served as an educational facility since its construction in 1909. Designed by an unknown architect, the original section of the building is a two story brick structure. The main facade is composed of three sections with central entrance pavilion slightly recessed from the flanking blocks. Building accents were accomplished in stone with horizontal banding, diamond motif on the cornice and water table. The entrance displays a gothic arch surrounding replacement doors, transom and sidelights. Built as a high school to replace the existing brick high school on Winters Lane, it served this purpose until the mid-1920s when a larger high school was built on Bloomsbury Avenue. To accommodate the elementary students, this Frederick Road school received two additions, one in 1929 and 1934. The local firm of Smith and May was responsible for the additions as well as many other county schools of the same period like the Bloomsbury High School. Later additions occurred in 1955 and 1970. The history of the school reflects the suburbanization of the area; the County had to provide necessary educational space as employment opportunities expanded the population in the twentieth century. As a principal education building serving the community since 1909, this school is significant for its association with public education in Catonsville. Therefore, I believe it is eligible for the Maryland Register.

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Prepared by: Stephanie Schaefer, Buchart Horn Architects

Lauren Bowlin

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

April 7, 1999

Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

B. Kuntz

Reviewer, NR program

8/20/99

Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

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- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
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- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
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- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
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III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

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

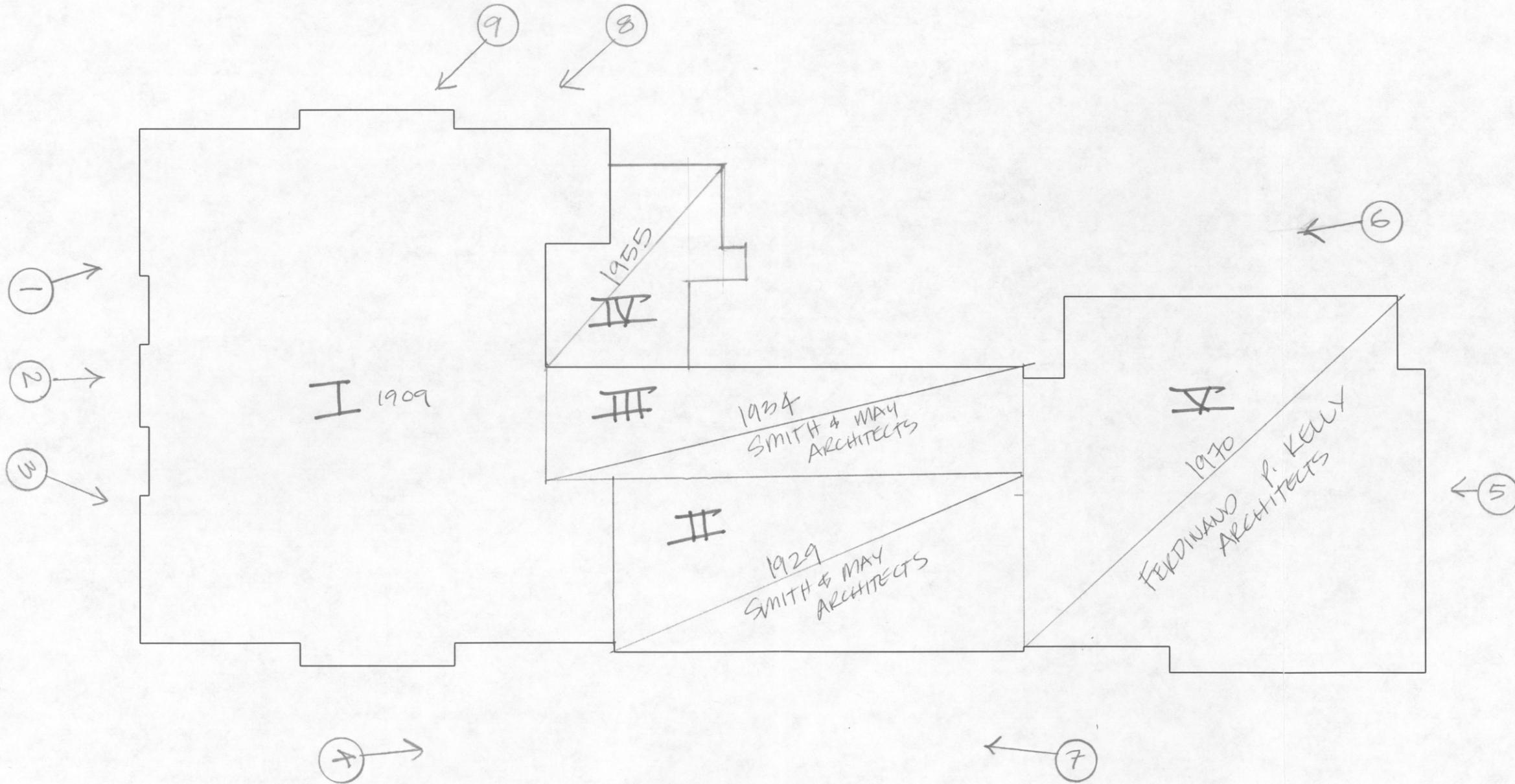
V. Resource Type:

Category: building  
 Historic Environment: village  
 Historic Function(s) and Use(s): educational facility

Known Design Source: 1909 ?? 1929, 1934 additions Smith and May

FREDERICK ROAD

NORTH



BA-2916.  
 CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 BA CO

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)

 <b>Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation</b> <b>BALTIMORE COUNTY</b> <b>Real Property Data Search</b>	<a href="#">Go Back</a> <a href="#">View Map</a> <a href="#">New Search</a> <a href="#">Ground Rent</a>
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**Account Identifier:** District - 01 **Account Number -** 0102572012

**Owner Information**

<b>Owner Name:</b>	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY	<b>Use:</b>	EXEMPT COMMERCIAL
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	940 YORK RD DIV OF PHY FACILITIES TOWSON MD 21204	<b>Principal Residence:</b>	NO
		<b>Deed Reference:</b>	1) 2)

**Location & Structure Information**

<b>Premises Address</b> FREDERICK RD	<b>Zoning</b> DR5.5	<b>Legal Description</b> 2.78 AC SS FREDERICK RD CATONVILLE ELEM SCHOOL
---	------------------------	--

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No: Plat Ref:
101	8	377						80	

Special Tax Areas	Town Ad Valorem Tax Class

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
1909	57,692 SF	2.78 AC	01

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

**Value Information**

	Base Value	Value		
		As Of	Phase-in Assessments	As Of
		01/01/2004	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
<b>Land:</b>	417,000	417,000		
<b>Improvements:</b>	3,453,300	3,890,500		
<b>Total:</b>	3,870,300	4,307,500	3,870,300	4,016,033
<b>Preferential Land:</b>	0	0	0	0

**Transfer Information**

<b>Seller:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Price:</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Deed1:</b>	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Price:</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Deed1:</b>	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Price:</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Deed1:</b>	<b>Deed2:</b>

**Exemption Information**

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

<b>Tax Exempt:</b> COUNTY AND STATE	<b>Special Tax Recapture:</b>
<b>Exempt Class:</b> SCHOOLS (PUBLIC, INCLUDING JUNIOR COLL.)	* NONE *

BA-2916  
Balt. West Quad  
MAP 41

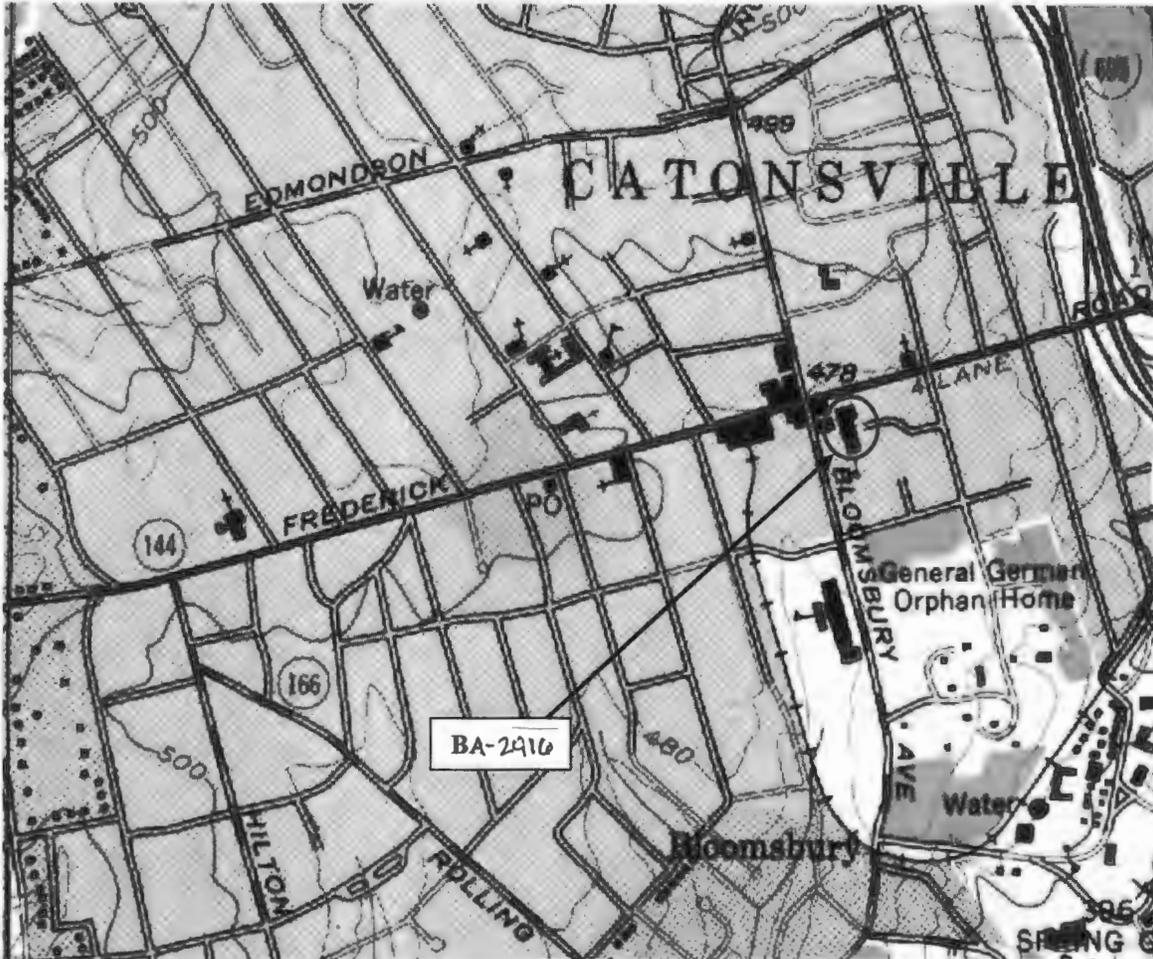


520,000 FT

39°15'00"

Joins Map 42

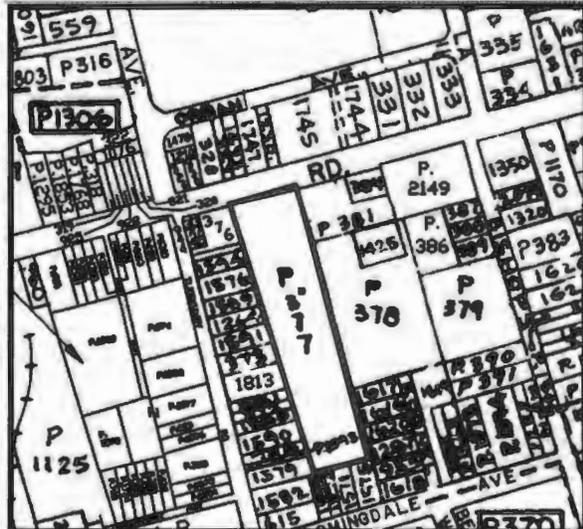
BA-2916  
Catonsville Elementary School  
615 Frederick Road (MD 144)  
Catonsville  
Baltimore West quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 101



A black and white photograph of a three-story brick elementary school building. The building features a prominent arched entrance with a set of stairs leading up to a double door. Above the arch, a sign reads "CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL". The facade is decorated with diamond-shaped motifs along the roofline. Multiple windows with white frames are visible on each floor. A small sign is posted to the left of the entrance, and a metal railing is in the foreground.

CATONSVILLE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

③ MAIN ELEVATION

NORTH FACADE ~~BA-2799~~

CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY, FREDERICK RD  
BA 60

7192-2916

FEB 99 12 14 PM '99 29.20



BRUNNEN  
KUNSTWERKE  
FABRIK

⑥ EAST FACADE  
~~BA-2799~~  
CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY  
FREDERICK RD  
BA CO  
BA-2916

AGFA  
AGFA

FEB 99 191 NNNN 11.11

PAPER  
PAPER  
PAPER

PAPER  
PAPER  
PAPER

AGFA  
AGFA

PAPER  
PAPER



CATONSVILLE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Small sign near utility pole, likely a school address or name.

① MAIN ELEVATION

NORTH FACADE

~~BA-2799~~

CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY

FREDERICK RD

BA CO

BA 2910

FEB 99 191 NNNN 26.18



(4) WEST FACADE

~~BA-2799~~

CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY

FREDERIC RD

BA 60

BA-2916

FEB 99 191 NNNN 19.15

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-2916**  
**Catonsville Elementary School**  
**615 Frederick Road**  
**Catonsville, Baltimore County**  
**ca. 1909**  
**Public**

The Catonsville Elementary School, originally known as the Catonsville High School, was constructed in 1909 and dedicated on April 22, 1910. Constructed at 615 Frederick Road, the imposing building exhibits elements of the Classical Revival, an architectural style that was popular during this period. The Catonsville Elementary School was erected in response to Governor Edwin Warfield's criticism of the public school system in Catonsville during the first decade of the 20th century. Originally, the school housed all of the elementary and secondary grades, however, by 1925, a larger facility was constructed to house the high school and the building on Frederick Road was officially designated as the Catonsville Elementary School. It was enlarged at the rear in 1970 by the construction of a gymnasium addition designed by the architectural firm of Ferdinand P. Kelley and Associates.

The much enlarged Classical Revival style school, originally a high school, stands two stories high, with a slightly raised basement. The main block of the building is rectangular in plan, approximately five bays wide and three bays deep. A one- and two-story addition was built onto the rear of the original ell in 1971, housing a gymnasium and additional classrooms. The school rests upon a poured concrete foundation and features brick construction. The original portion of the school is laid in Flemish bond with a limestone watertable and stringcourse, while the addition features stretcher bond. Single windows define interior stairwells, while grouped windows define classrooms. The windows are arranged in groups of three, four, five, and six, and embellished by stone sills and molded stone lintels. The roof is flat, and obscured from view by a brick parapet. Flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions ornament the frieze, and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions defines the top of the frieze.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2916

### 1. Name of Property

historic  Catonsville High School; Catonsville Elementary School (preferred)

other

### 2. Location

street and number 615 Frederick Road  not for publication

city, town Baltimore, Maryland  vicinity

county Baltimore

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

name Board of Education of Baltimore County

street and number 940 York Road telephone 410-887-6301

city, town Towson state Maryland zip code 21204

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel m: 101, p: 377

city, town Towson, liber 342 folio 526

### 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	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			0

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2916

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

---

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

The Catonsville Elementary School at 615 Frederick Road was constructed in 1909 in the Classical Revival style. The much enlarged school, originally a high school, stands two stories high, with a slightly raised basement. The main block of the building is rectangular in plan, approximately five bays wide, and three bays deep. A one- and two-story addition was built onto the rear of the original ell in 1971, housing a gymnasium and additional classrooms. The school rests upon a poured concrete foundation and features brick construction. The original portion of the school is laid in Flemish bond, while the addition features stretcher bond. Single windows define interior stairwells, while grouped windows define classrooms. The windows are arranged in groups of three, four, five, and six, and embellished by stone sills and molded stone lintels. The roof is flat, and obscured from view by a brick parapet. Encircling the building, a molded limestone watertable divides the basement from the first story, and acts as a continuous lintel for the basement openings. Also encircling the building, a limestone stringcourse acts as a continuous lintel for the second story windows. Flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions ornament the frieze, and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions defines the top of the frieze.

The school is located on the south side of Frederick Road, and is accessed by a U-shaped paved drive with ornamental trees at the front. A long driveway leads to a paved parking lot on the east side of the building, and a playground and playing fields are to the south.

### EXTERIOR

The façade faces Frederick Road to the north, and features symmetrical five-part massing with projecting end bays. The building's horizontal massing is contradicted by the verticality of the slightly projecting main entry at the center and the stylized medallion symmetrically placed above in the parapet. Thirteen symmetrically placed 2/2 vinyl replacement windows, two of which have been filled with vents, mark the basement level. A single-leaf metal flush door provides basement access at the western end of the building. The first story is dominated by the central entry. Accessed by a concrete stair, the slightly projecting entry bay is constructed of brick with limestone detailing. The bay rises to the sills of the second story openings. It is marked by buttress-like embattlements at the sides, an ogee molded stringcourse, and a crenellated parapet holding the sign, "CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL." The wide entry opening is framed by limestone quoins and a Tudor-arched limestone lintel. Three narrow vertical lights mark the double-leaf flush replacement doors. A 1940 photo indicates that the original entry featured two double-leaf wood doors, each with a single large rectangular panel. Four-light sidelights and a five-light fixed transom flank the doors. The symmetry of the building begins with elongated groups of windows of the first story united by continuous limestone sills and lintels. Moving outward from the main entry bay are groups of three and five window openings, each holding 2/2 vinyl replacement sash. Similarly, the second story maintains the symmetry with a centrally placed 2/2 replacement window over the entry. This opening is flanked on either side by groups of four and five 2/2 replacement windows. The brick parapet trimming the roof of the building is accented on the façade by a round

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2916

Catonsville Elementary School, 615 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

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limestone medallion surrounded by festoons, torches, a scrolled keystone, and triangular shields. At the parapet in the end bays of the façade are rectangular panels of limestone flanking a round medallion.

The west elevation is similarly finished with groups of window openings, limestone accented frieze, and ogee-capped limestone stringcourses. This elevation includes the main block of the building, the original ell, and the 1971 rear addition. The slope of the site presents the elevation as three stories in height, rather than two-stories on a raised basement. The center bay of the main block projects. Within the main block, the openings are groups from north to south: four, five, and five. The fenestration pattern of the rear ell from north to south: one, six, six, and one. Twenty-three 2/2 vinyl replacement windows and five 1/1 vinyl replacement windows pierce the basement level. A wide single entry is located in the southernmost bay of the ell. A two-course rowlock brick lintel with modest limestone keystone marks the segmentally arched opening. Recessed behind a opening, the double-leaf flush metal replacement door features a one-light transom and provides access to an interior stairwell. The first and second stories of the west elevation continue the symmetrically fenestration pattern with 2/2 replacement windows, united in groups by continuous limestone sills and lintels. The northernmost bay of each story, however, is devoid of openings. The flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions trim the parapet.

A flat roof one-story addition extending the full width of the south elevation of the rear ell unites the building with the 1971 addition. Five 1/1 windows pierce the west elevation of the one-story hyphen. The 1971 gymnasium addition has no openings on the west elevation. Similarly, the south elevation of the addition has no window openings. Two symmetrically placed double-leaf flush metal doors pierce it. Following the limestone detailing of the main block, the addition has a wide stone frieze set above a soldier-coursed bed molding. Two rectangular limestone panels extend from the top of the entry openings to the frieze. The main block contains a centrally placed 1/1 vinyl window on the first story and a symmetrical 1/1 vinyl window on the second story. The flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions trim the parapet.

The east elevation is comprised of the main block, the rear ell, and the 1971 addition. Continuing the ornamentation presented on the façade, the east elevation of the main block has 2/2 window openings grouped in a pattern of six and five on all three of the stories. The northernmost bay is devoid of openings on all three stories. A one bay wide stair tower, set back from the wall plane of the main block, has a single 2/2 window in the second story. The east elevation of the ell has three groups of six 2/2 window openings on each story. The one-story addition, wrapping around the east elevation of the 1971 addition, has four single entries and double entry, each holding flush metal doors. The space between the door lintels and the frieze is filled with limestone. The two-story gymnasium addition has no openings.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2916

Catonsville Elementary School, 615 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 3

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### INTERIOR

The interior plan of the school consists of a central corridor flanked on both sides by offices, classrooms, a cafeteria, and bathrooms. Four stairwells provide access to the upper floors – two are located at either end of the corridor that runs laterally across the main block; one is at the end of the south wing, and one was added onto the southeast corner of the main block. These dogleg stairs feature solid metal balustrades with round metal rails and squared metal newel posts with pyramidal caps. The various rooms flanking the corridors retain most of their original wood baseboards, window casings, and door casings. The baseboards are ten inches high with cavetto caps, and the molded window casings are five-and-a-half inches wide. The original smooth plaster walls remain throughout the building. It appears that a major effort was made to modernize the school during the 1950s or 1960s, with the installation of vinyl floor tile and wood slab doors. Terrazzo was also applied to the floor surfaces of the stairwells. Another effort was made in 1970 and 1971, when the rear addition was built. According to blueprints, lockers were installed in the hallways in 1971. Some of the doors have metal surrounds, and some of the baseboards have been replaced with vinyl kick plates. Composition-board ceiling tiles also appear to have been installed during the 1970s. The cloakrooms located in each classroom were also removed at around the same time. Most of the doors have brass knobs and plates, and the classrooms have hanging fluorescent lights.

The following inventory of rooms is based upon blueprints made for alterations and additions in 1970. The basement, or ground floor, features the cafeteria, kitchen, faculty dining room, dish washing room, boiler room, two mechanical rooms, two kindergarten rooms, five storage rooms, two restrooms, an office, and four classrooms. The ground floor of the 1971 rear addition includes the gymnasium, two physical education offices, two storage rooms, two restrooms, and two music rooms. The first floor features an auditorium, library, six classrooms, a health suite, two conference rooms, a guidance room, a janitor room, an audio-visual room, two work rooms, and three offices. According to the current custodian, the auditorium originally had tin ceilings. The auditorium currently has a drop ceiling, and decorative wood wall paneling. The second floor features eight classrooms, two art rooms, two special education rooms, two restrooms, and two storage rooms.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2916

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

<b>Significance dates</b>	1909-1970	<b>Architect</b>	Ferdinand P. Kelly and Associates (7/70)
<b>Specific dates</b>	1909, 1925, 1970	<b>Builder</b>	Lamprecht Consultants; Miles & Davidson, Inc. (7/70)

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.)

The Catonsville Elementary School, originally the Catonsville High School, was constructed in 1909 and dedicated on April 22, 1910. Constructed along Frederick Road, the imposing building exhibits elements of the Classical Revival, an architectural style that was popular during this period. The Catonsville Elementary School was erected in response to Governor Edwin Warfield’s criticism of the public school system in Catonsville during the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Originally, the high school housed all of the elementary and secondary grades, however, by 1925, a larger facility was constructed to house the high school and the building on Frederick Road was officially designated as the Catonsville Elementary School. It was enlarged at the rear in 1970 by the construction of a gymnasium addition designed by the architectural firm of Ferdinand P. Kelley and Associates.

### History of the Catonsville Elementary School

During the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Catonsville was emerging into a growing suburb of Baltimore. New structures erected along Frederick Road were symbolic of the changing environment. One such building was the Catonsville High School. Governor Edwin Warfield had criticized the citizens of Catonsville for their lack of cooperation in securing a site for a new school. Following this rebuke, a committee of local citizens focused their attention on purchasing a site for the new building. The committee included prominent local citizen Victor G. Bloede, the president of the First National Bank of Catonsville and the developer of Eden Terrace. Difficulties arose in purchasing a site due to the protest of local residents and properties tied up in private interests. Other opposition lay in the proposed use of the original high school. Located on Winter’s Lane, it was proposed that the old high school (1873/1899) be used by the African-American population in Catonsville. Due to racial inequality at the time, many members of the Caucasian citizenry rejected this because they felt that the school would bring the African-American children too close to the heart of town, thus decreasing property values. As a result, the old high school was sold to St. Mark’s and used as a parochial school, while the African-American students continued to attend the school at the intersection of Winter’s Lane and Edmondson Avenue.

Success in finding a site came when the committee secured a three-acre lot along Frederick Road in the heart of Catonsville. Purchased from William H. Adams, the property originally belonged to Remus Adams, an

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2916

Catonsville Elementary School, 615 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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African-American blacksmith, whose house and shop were located on the parcel of land. The tract was purchased in 1907 by Victor G. Bloede, Arthur C. Monkell, G. Herbert Rice, Lewis W. Freund, and Frederick Leutz before being conveyed in 1909 to the Board of County School Commissioners of Baltimore County. Although officially dedicated in April 1910, the new school building was in use by February of the same year. The school's literary journal, *Blue and Gold*, wrote in an editorial, "We have begun work in our new school, where better facilities are offered in every branch of educational pursuits. With these advantages let us endeavor to make the last half better than the first. Let this first year of work in our new building be a success. This building shall then stand in the eyes of the people of Catonsville, as a monument to their civic pride, and as an honor to those energetic and active citizens."<sup>1</sup> As of 1914, the Catonsville High School had eight teachers: Rene Edward de Russy, Hannah Scott, Helen Coulter, Mary Ebaugh, Ada Colburn, Edith Tracey, Reba Neepier, and Clarence Edward Earle. Originally, the high school housed all of the elementary and secondary grades, however, by 1925, the school attendance had outgrown the new facility. At this time, a larger facility was constructed to house the high school and the building on Frederick Road was officially designated as the Catonsville Elementary School. The new high school was erected in 1926 along Bloomsbury Avenue.

Evidence of overcrowding was seen as early as 1919, when the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate the presence of three addition classroom buildings to the rear of the main school building. Each classroom was one story in height with a rectangular footprint. By 1925, two more classroom buildings had been constructed, bringing the total to five. Following the designation of the building as the Catonsville Elementary School, the five additional classroom buildings were removed, to be replaced by a large three-story addition on the southwest corner of the school. According to the Sanborn maps, this change occurred between 1925 and 1930.

The next major change occurred in the 1970s when Ferdinand P. Kelley and Associates designed interior alterations and an addition. According to the architectural drawings, dated July 15, 1970, the structural engineer for the project was Lamprecht Consultants and the mechanical engineer was Miles and Davidson, Inc. On the rear of the school, a gymnasium was added and interior alterations included the removal of coat closets, the installation of lockers, and the enlargement of classrooms.

Despite alterations in the 1920s and 1970s, the building retains its strong ties to the Classical Revival style of architecture. As the Victorian era came to a close, American culture, and its architecture, rejected the earlier Picturesque movement. Inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, there was an overwhelming response to classically inspired designs. Typically, Classical Revival buildings feature symmetrical facades with centered entries and rhythmic rows of windows. Additionally, they often mimicked the columns of the classical orders, being constructed with a base, shaft, and capital. These elements are clearly

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<sup>1</sup> Edward Orser and Joseph Arnold, *Catonsville 1880 to 1940 from Village to Suburb*, (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 1989), p. 108.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2916

Catonsville Elementary School, 615 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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defined in the Catonsville Elementary School, with the water table and stringcourse visually dividing the building into three sections, representing the base, shaft and capital of the Classical Revival style.

Chain of Title:

August 29, 1907:

William H. and Mary J. Adams to Victor G. Bloede, Arthur C. Monkell, G. Herbert Rice, Lewis W. Freund, and Frederick Leutz  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 319 Folio 218

January 2, 1909:

Vicotr G. and Elise S. Bloede, Arthur C. and Virginia Monkell, G. Herbert and Agnes Gill Rice, Lewis W. and Laura J. Freund, and Frederick and Paula Leutz to Board of County School Commissioners of Baltimore County  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 342 Folio 526

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2916

Catonsville Elementary School, 615 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Developmental Period(s):	Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930) Modern Period (1930-Present)
Historic Period Theme(s):	Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning Social/Education/Cultural
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	EDUCATION/School
Known Design Source:	Ferdinand P. Kelly and Associates (7/15/70)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. BA-2916

Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Orser, Edward and Joseph Arnold. *Catonsville 1880 to 1940 From Village to Suburb*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 1989.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Catonsville, Maryland: 1910, 1919, 1925, 1930 and 1958.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of project area	<u>2.78 Acres</u>	
Acreage surveyed	<u>2.78 Acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Baltimore West, MD</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

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This building, known as the Catonsville Elementary School, is located at 615 Frederick Road as noted on Tax Map 101, Parcel 377. It has historically been associated with the site since its construction in 1909.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Robin J. Weidlich, Laura Trieschmann, and Christopher V. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.
street & number	5420 Western Avenue
city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland

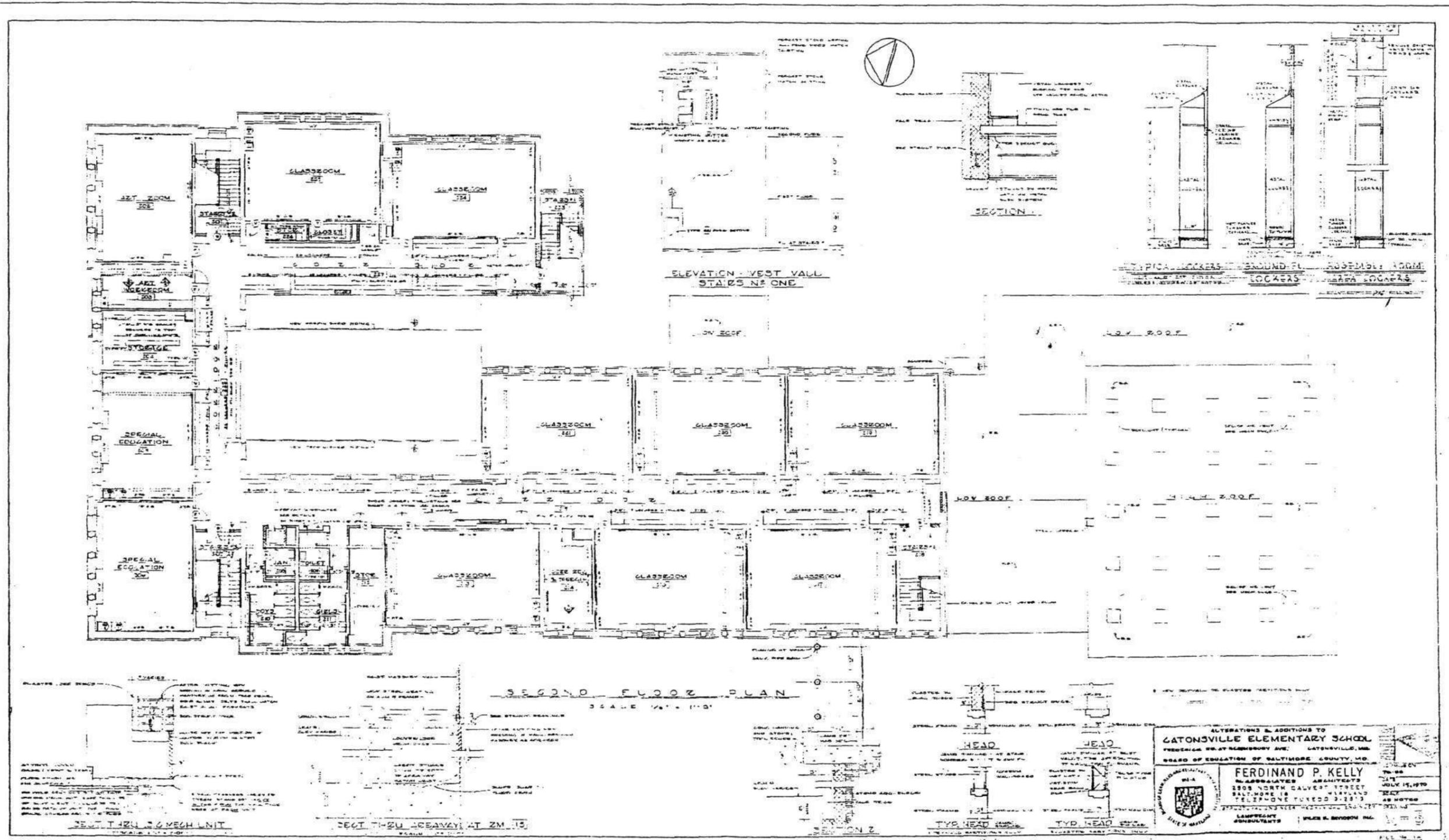
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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 Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600





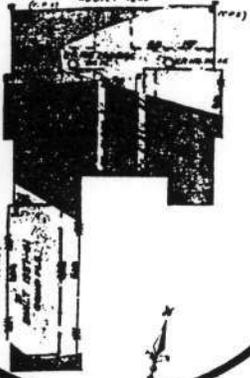
ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS TO  
**GATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
 FREDERICK ST. AT REDBERRY AVE. GATONSVILLE, MD.  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

**FERDINAND P. KELLY**  
 ARCHITECT  
 1208 NORTH CALVERT STREET  
 BALTIMORE 18 MARYLAND  
 TELEPHONE FV 8203-3-2213

DATE: JULY 14, 1970  
 SCALE: AS SHOWN  
 DRAWN BY: [Signature]  
 CHECKED BY: [Signature]

CATONSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

(BUILT 1909)



BA-2916

CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
615 FREDERICK ROAD



62

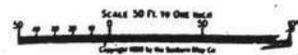
BLOOMINGDALE AV.

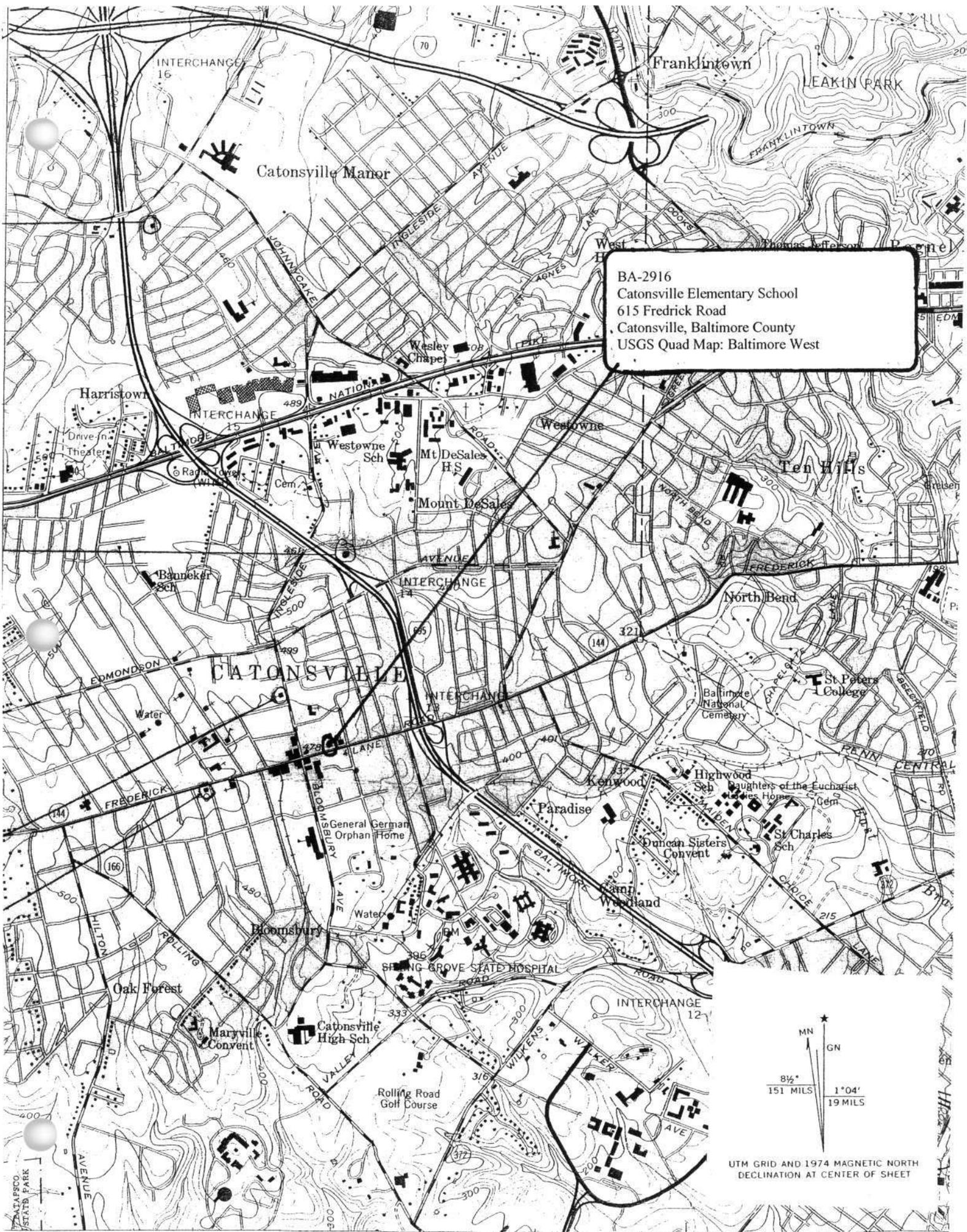
ROGNET AV.

BISHOP LANE

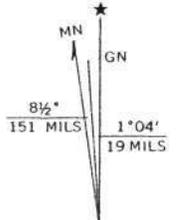
BISHOP LANE

Catonsville, Maryland  
Baltimore County  
Sanborn Map 1930, Updated 1958





BA-2916  
 Catonsville Elementary School  
 615 Fredrick Road  
 Catonsville, Baltimore County  
 USGS Quad Map: Baltimore West



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA 2916

CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
615 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

3/00

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

1 OF 6



BA 2916

Catonsville Elementary School  
615 Frederick Road, Catonsville  
Baltimore County

Traceries

1/00

Maryland SHPO

east elevation LOOKING WEST

2 OF 6



BA 2916

Catonsville Elementary School

615 Frederick Road, Catonsville

Baltimore County

Traceries

100

Maryland SHPO

South elevation LOOKING NORTH

3 OF 6



BA 2916

Catonsville Elementary School

615 Frederick Road, Catonsville

Baltimore County

Traceries

100

Maryland SHPO

west elevation LOOKING NORTH

4 OF 6



BA 2916

CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

615 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

3/00

MARYLAND SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, HALL, LOOKING EAST

5 OF 6



BA 2916

CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

615 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

3/00

MARYLAND SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, CLASSROOM 135, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

6 OF 6