

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no

Property Name: Maiden Choice School Inventory Number: BA-3282
Address: 5525 Shelbourne Road Historic district: ___ yes no
City: Halethorpe, MD Zip Code: 21227 County: Baltimore County
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
Property Owner: Baltimore County Board of Education Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 866 Tax Map Number: 101
Project: I-695: Bridge Replacement over Benson Ave. & I-695 Inner L Agency: FHWA/MD SHA
Agency Prepared By: MD SHA
Preparer's Name: Anne E. Bruder Architectural Historian Date Prepared: 02/22/2013
Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ___ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ___ A ___ B C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ___ yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Summary: The Maiden Choice Elementary School in Halethorpe, Baltimore County, is a multi-wing one-story building constructed between 1951 and 1952, with alterations in the mid-1980s when the school was converted to a school for special needs students. Additional alterations occurred in the 1990s or early 2000 when the windows were replaced. The early 1950s school was constructed as part of Baltimore County's response to the rapid increases in local neighborhood populations following the end of World War II. The houses constructed in the Leeds developments on either side of I-695 near Maiden Choice Lane and Seven Oaks Road are examples of the new suburban developments that were driving school construction.

Description: Maiden Choice School's initial construction in 1951 resulted in one educational wing with classrooms on either side of a central corridor. According to newspaper accounts, the school had 24 classrooms. The Administrative wing is attached to the center of the classroom wing's northern wall and extended to the north, to serve as a hyphen. A second classroom wing was constructed starting in mid-1952 and extending into 1953, that parallels the first wing. The school is oriented to the west, facing the parking lot bordering Shelbourne Road, and the grounds extend from I-695 on the south to Maiden Choice Lane on the north. Maiden Choice School is a one-story structure, of common bond brick with a flat roof. The hyphen's exterior is of stone surrounding a glass wall with eight panes with two solid-core entrance doors with single pane lights and panic bars. On the interior, the floor is terrazzo at the main entrance and terrazzo bordered by ceramic tile throughout the other hallways. The interior

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Jim DeLuca
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

4/16/13
Date
5/2/13
Date

walls are concrete block covered with ceramic tile, and the building has been made handicapped accessible, with railing installed along the walls. There are lockers installed along each of the corridors. The building has central interior hallways with classrooms on either side. Each classroom also has an exit on its exterior wall. There is also a cafeteria and a library, as well as playing fields and a parking lot at the front of the school. The main entrance is at the end of a long sidewalk that extends from the parking lot extending along the length of the classroom wings to the Administrative wing. There is grass on either side of the sidewalk, with trees and sidewalks leading to several classrooms' exterior doors.

The building has been altered by the installation of new windows throughout the building. As shown on the Maiden Choice School webpage, the original windows were horizontal panels held by narrow black metal bands. The new windows consist of 10 panes in two sashes of four panes each and a transom light of two panes at the top of each window in the north wing, while the south wing has fixed windows with nine lights in each frame. Based on a review of photographs of schools being built at the time as shown in The Baltimore Sun, the original windows were horizontal in orientation. Although filling the same amount of space, the current window panes are square with thicker mullions which are an alteration of the historic design.

Significance: Starting in 1949, the Baltimore County School System sought ways to provide new buildings for a rapidly expanding population which added approximately 3000 new students each year starting in 1948. That year the Baltimore County Commissioners expected to construct ten school projects with three new elementary schools, including Maiden Choice School in Arbutus. A \$16,000,000 construction program was proposed for a referendum by special vote in May 1949 in the county. At the same time, the County Council had sponsored legislation during the General Assembly's annual session for issuing school construction program bonds. By September 1949, the number of school construction projects had increased to twelve new schools with new classroom additions to six others for a cost of \$8,583,664 which was approved by the Baltimore County Commissioners following the defeat of the school referendum in June 1949. In addition to the amount approved by the Commissioners, the County also received \$1,190,922 from the School Loan Act which had been passed by the General Assembly in special session in December 1949.(1)

By August 1950, the plan for the Maiden Choice School had been developed by Baltimore architect Henry Powell Hopkins (1891-1984). The one-story school with classrooms surrounding a center hall attached to the administrative wing was planned for 420 students to be opened by fall 1951. However, school officials feared that the steel shortages would prevent the school from opening on time. Construction continued and the second wing was added beginning in July 1952. Hopkins' design was used at several different Baltimore County schools including Mars Estates School in Middle River and Villa Cresta School in Parkville, and was noted as a standard plan, although school officials stressed that adapting a plan for several schools was not to "be confused with the so-called 'standard or stock plans and specifications' for new school buildings which was described 'as inflexible,' since it did not take into account differences in the site or the school population. Baltimore County had constructed one-story school buildings since 1928 when the Fort Garrison School in Pikesville and Hebbville School in Milford Mill were first constructed. Hopkins' designs were more complex than those schools because of the larger populations and changes in pedagogy.(2)

Neither Hopkins' obituary nor his entry for the University of Maryland Archives specifically notes his Baltimore County public school designs. Instead, his more important school projects are considered to be his designs for colleges such as Texas A&M University and the University of Maryland at College Park where he designed McKeldin Library in 1957, among other buildings.(3) Hopkins and his partner, Allan Burton, won annual awards from the Baltimore AIA Chapter for the design of Mars Estate School in Middle River and Hereford High Scholl in northern Baltimore County. Maiden Choice School was not mentioned in the award booklet. At least six other architectural firms were cited for their schools in the same award ceremony.(4)

The Maiden Choice School lacks integrity of design, workmanship, feeling and association because of the loss of the historic

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW													
Eligibility recommended							Eligibility not recommended						
Criteria:	A	B	C	D	Considerations:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
MHT Comments:													
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services							_____ Date						
_____ Reviewer, National Register Program							_____ Date						

University of Maryland Archives, "Henry Powell Hopkins Papers," accessed via <http://digital.lib.umd.edu/archivesum/actions.DisplayEADDoc.do?source=MdU.ead.histmas.0180.xml&st>, accessed 02/01/2013

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

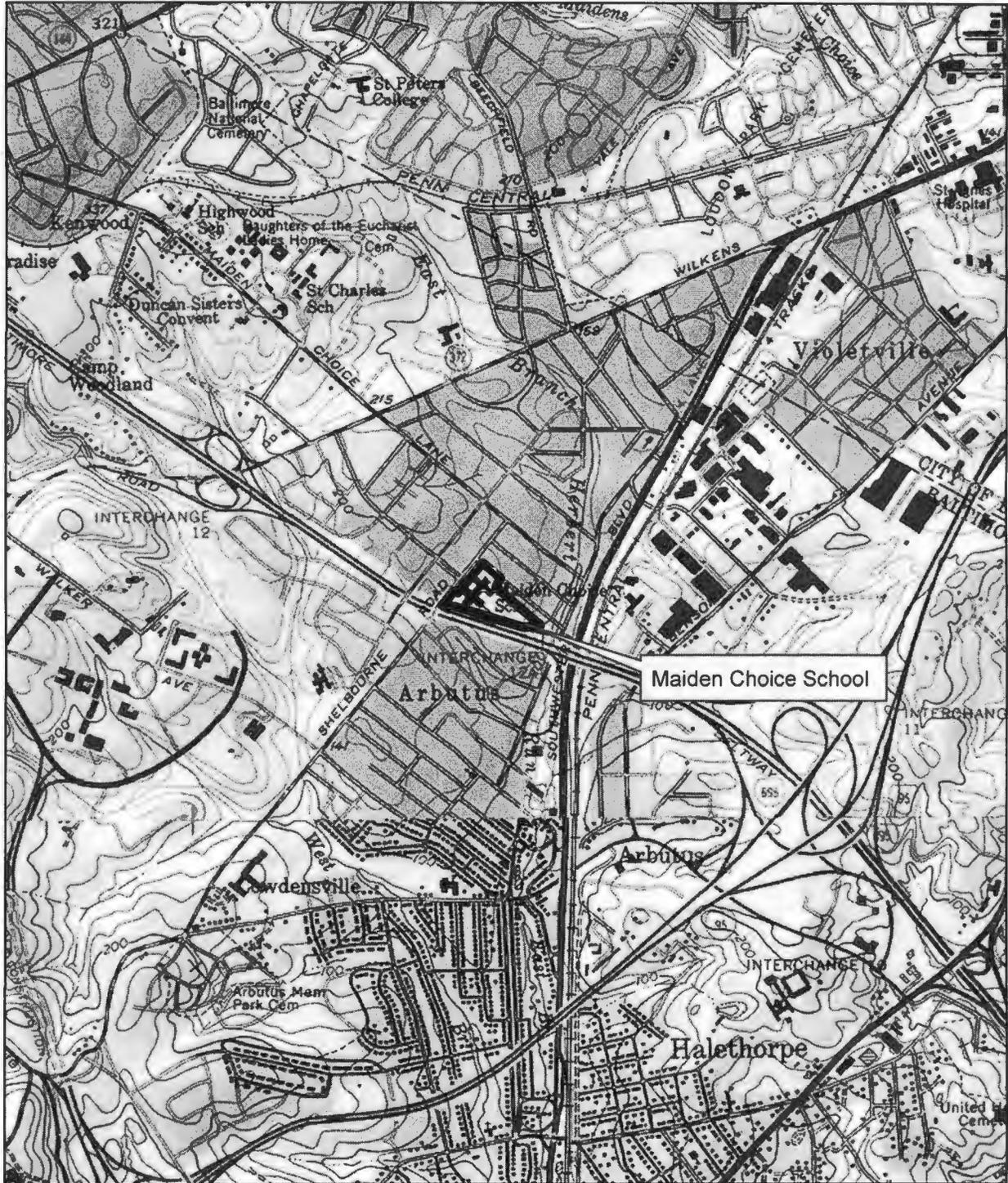
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Location Map
Maiden Choice School
BA-3282
Baltimore West USGS Quadrangle





BA-3282

MADISON CHOICE SCHOOL

BALTIMORE, MD

BRUNER

2-12-2013

MIDSHIP

FRONT ENTRANCE WITH ENTRY COURT
WITH SIDEWALKS TO EXTERIOR CLASS-
ROOM DOORS; LOOKING EAST AT WEST
FACADE & SOUTH WING.

1/3



PA-3282

MADE CHOICE SCHOOL
FAULMOR CO, MD

BRIDGE

11/2/2012

IND SAFO

NORTH WING LOOKING ~~NORTHEAST~~ AT
SOUTH & WEST ELEVATIONS

2/3



PA-3282

MANDEN CHOICE SCHOOL

PACHTIMORE Co, MD

RENDER

11/2/2012

MIDFIELD

INTERIOR OF ENTRANCE LOBBY
LOOKING WEST AT SOUTH ENTRY DOOR

3/3