

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes no

Property Name: Baltimore Lutheran School Inventory Number: BA-3296
 Address: 1145 Concordia Drive Historic district: yes no
 City: Towson Zip Code: 21286 County: Baltimore County
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Towson
 Property Owner: Baltimore Lutheran High School Association, Inc. Tax Account ID Number: 09-0902004252
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0035 Tax Map Number: 0070
 Project: IS 695 at Minebank Run Stream Restoration Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration
 Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration
 Preparer's Name: SHA Consultant Architectural Historian Rebecca Crew Date Prepared: 07/21/2014
 Documentation is presented in: _____
 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 no Listed: yes no
 Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

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

The Baltimore Lutheran School, consisting of grades 6-12, is located on a 23-acre campus immediately adjacent to I-695 at 1145 Concordia Drive in Towson, Maryland. The school consists of four major buildings: two academic buildings, a gymnasium, and enclosed tennis courts. The campus includes a parking lot, concrete walkways between buildings, athletic fields for football, baseball, and soccer, as well as wooded areas.

The campus maintains a unifying architectural theme incorporating horizontal buildings with flat roofs and stucco-finished walls accented by rough-course rubble masonry veneer. Primary entrances consist of paired metal doors with vertical rectangular lights. The academic buildings' stucco walls have evenly-spaced aluminum-framed window units containing paired vertical rectangular lights above brown-painted composite panels.

The first academic building, Hofmeister Hall, was constructed in 1964. Two stories tall and built into a hillside, its lower level is exposed only on the south elevation. Hofmeister Hall's original footprint consists of two adjacent rectangular blocks: a large, almost square block with a smaller, narrower block adjoining its east side and offset to the north.

Keunne Hall, the second academic building, was begun in 1968. Located northwest of Hofmeister Hall, its footprint is identical,

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MHT Comments:

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

8/19/2014
 Date
8/25/14
 Date

but the plan is reversed: the smaller block adjoins the west side and is offset to the south. Keunne Hall has only one level of classrooms, but its east façade features a stone-veneer concrete entrance stair.

In each academic building, the two adjoining rectangular blocks form an L-shaped hallway lined by classrooms. The hallway floors are terrazzo, and full-length metal lockers line the concrete masonry hallways. In Hofmeister Hall, this plan is duplicated on both levels. Hofmeister Hall's original entrance would have been at the north side of the larger rectangular block, but later additions have filled the open space between the two academic buildings. An octagonal library and administration addition was constructed in 1987 on the north side of Hofmeister Hall. A cornerstone marked "1964," located east of the original entrance, remains in an exposed stone wall within one of the offices of the administration section. Similarly, one classroom on the west side of the original building has an exposed stone wall as part of its interior wall. An octagonal entry pavilion at the northeast side of Hofmeister Hall comprises eight stone-masonry piers with round columns and a wood roof. While providing visual direction to the entrance of the school, it further obscures the original design.

The Activity Center, containing the gym and lunch room, has a shallow-gabled roof and rectangular footprint. Located on a hillside southwest of Hofmeister Hall and south of Kuenne Hall, it has a one-story stone masonry north façade. Its side and rear elevations have vertical metal siding that extends downhill to an exposed lower level, providing space for gymnasium activities.

The field house, a tensile fabric structure, covers athletic fields built in 1987. The fields were originally tennis courts, and the tensile fabric covering was built at a later date. With its large rectangular footprint with fabric stretched over a metal truss frame, it is visually prominent from I-695.

The athletic fields are located western part of campus. The land is elevated above the academic buildings, perhaps built-up as part of dirt removal from the construction of I-695. The football field is lined with bleachers on one side, and a baseball diamond is located at its south end. Soccer fields are located at the western edge, west of the football field.

Institutional history, adapted from a history provided by the school historian David Kluge

Lutheran education in Baltimore originated in the mid-nineteenth century. The Zion Lutheran Church congregation dates to 1755, and in 1835, a schism in the congregation occurred when 150 members left with the orthodox-leaning Reverend John Peter Haesbaerth to form the Second German Evangelical Lutheran Church which met at Holliday and Saratoga Streets, and added a school in 1837. The Second Evangelical Lutheran Church became the largest congregation in the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church. In the mid 1860s, due to changes in the church neighborhood, the spread of members to different parts of the city, and deficiencies of the church building, the church sold its property at Holliday and Saratoga, and divided the proceeds between three newly formed congregations: Immanuel at 25 South Caroline Street, St. Martini at Henrietta and Sharp Streets, and St. Paul's at Fremont and Saratoga Streets. Each of these congregations established their own schools.

In 1945, Immanuel Lutheran Church began its relocation from South Caroline Street north to Baltimore County at Loch Raven Boulevard and Belvedere Avenue. The move allowed Immanuel's school to expand to junior high grades. This illustrates how in the years following World War II, a church building boom occurred in Baltimore and its suburbs following the population shift of Baltimore to the City's outer fringes and suburbs. Six new Lutheran churches were built in the Baltimore area between 1950 and 1953, and a more than a dozen new Lutheran churches were in the planning stages in 1953. Other denominations were actively building new churches, but the growth of Lutheran churches was particularly large. Related to this church building boom, the churches of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the Baltimore area formed a committee to study the idea of establishing a Lutheran High School for Baltimore.

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Eligibility recommended _____							Eligibility not recommended _____						
Criteria:	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u> </u> C	<u> </u> D	Considerations:	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u> </u> C	<u> </u> D	<u> </u> E	<u> </u> F	<u> </u> G	
MHT Comments:													
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Reviewer, National Register Program							Date						

With the support of local congregations, the Lutheran High School Association was established in 1953. In May of 1953 a Board of Directors was elected and a constitution adopted. After the committee viewed several property sites, they agreed in July 1958 to purchase the present property near Cromwell Bridge Road. The property, as well as the surrounding area, was almost totally undeveloped at this time. Loch Raven Boulevard had not been extended, and I-695 was still under construction.

The Lutheran High School Association extended a call for an Executive Director. In 1962, Mr. Herbert Stuenkel, the principal of an elementary and junior high school in San Francisco, accepted the call.

The same year, the Association hired an architect, J. Prentiss Browne to develop a campus plan. Browne's original plan consisted of an administration building, a student commons and cafeteria building, separate junior and senior high school buildings, a gymnasium and chapel, totaling 69,000 square feet. An early conceptual design, published in the Baltimore Sun in 1963 and now hanging in the school's office, included mansard roofs on some of the buildings and a chapel building with a narrow, flat roof and steep, sloping sides. Covered walkways connected many of the low-profile buildings. The modified campus plan separated age groups and activities, and the scale and materials blended with the neighboring residential community. This plan would be altered as the buildings were constructed over the years. The chapel was never built, and the covered walkways between buildings were not built, in favor of a more flexible system of sidewalks, but the use of stone masonry walls, prefabricated window units, and flat roofs are present in the early schematic and in what was built.

Ground breaking for the first building, Hofmeister Hall, was September 1964. Stevenson & Kelly were the structural engineers, and William H. Sands was the builder. The school opened in September 1965 with 90 students in grades 7, 8, and 9. In 1966, the 10th grade was added, followed by the 11th grade in 1967 and the 12th grade in 1968. The first class graduated in 1969.

In the summer of 1967, a chemistry lab was installed in Hofmeister Hall. By the end of 1968, the school was accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education. In 1968, a second building, Kuenne Hall, was added with 9 classrooms and a cafeteria. The Activity Center, containing a gymnasium and lunchroom, was added in 1973. At the tenth anniversary, the first two buildings, Kuenne Hall and Hofmeister Hall, were dedicated as memorials to Herbert Kuenne, a past president of the Baltimore Lutheran High School Association, Inc. and John Hofmeister, who served on the committee that acquired the land for the school and raised money for its construction. In 1981 the Lutheran Activity Center was dedicated to William Rach, another early supporter. In 1987, a library media center (containing an octagonal roof with clerestory windows), office complex, and two classrooms were added to the north end of Hofmeister Hall. Tennis courts were added southwest of Hofmeister Hall, north of I-695. Six grade students were also enrolled for the first time in 1987. In 1996, the gym was expanded to allow more team practice space and enough room for the entire school to gather for chapel services. In 2000, an entrance plaza was built in order to redirect traffic, alleviate congestion, and make drop off and pick up of the student body safer. This includes a new driveway, an octagonal pavilion to provide shelter, and a stone wall engraved with "Baltimore Lutheran School." In 2002, a turf field soon replaced the grass that was previously played on and a field house was built to allow several sports teams to practice at the same time. In the summer of 2011, a new wood surface gymnasium floor was installed and new student lockers were placed in the hallways of each building to serve the students in grades 6-12.

Architectural history of J. Prentiss Browne, Inc.

Born in Baltimore in 1921, John Prentiss Browne graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. During World War II, he served as a draftsman with the U. S. Marine Corps (1944-1946), and after the war he worked as a contractor from 1946 to 1949 with the Arundel Construction Company, Inc. He graduated from an architectural course at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in 1949, and took other courses at the Johns Hopkins University. Browne worked as a draftsman with Baltimore architecture firm Smith & Veale (1949), followed by a longer stint with Hall, Border & Donaldson (1949-1951). In 1951, he moved to the office of

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L. P. Kooken, but only remained there through July, 1952. In 1953, Browne launched his own architectural office in Baltimore. Browne joined the AIA as an associate in 1950 and then gained full membership in 1953.

J. Prentiss Browne designed schools in every Maryland county but three. His educational commissions began with an addition to the Forest Park High School cafeteria in 1955, and he designed Crisfield Elementary School in 1961. His first noted campus was the Maryland Institution for Men in Breathedsville (Washington County) in 1962, which included dormitories, gymnasium, chapel, administration building, dining hall, and educational and vocational training buildings. The Baltimore Lutheran School campus plan was designed around the same time as the Maryland Institution for Men. Later educational designs continued the approach of using multiple buildings separating ages and functions. Browne applied a cluster plan of classroom pods for Woodhome Elementary School in 1967 and a design of four separate building "cores" for North East Senior High School in Cecil County in 1968. Both schools featured moveable walls to provide for flexibility. Also in 1968, Browne developed a building program for the Mount Washington campus for the School of the Chimes, a residential school for special needs students, included a residence hall, school, training center, activities center, and outdoor recreation spaces. Due to the sloping site, like that at Baltimore Lutheran School, the buildings were constructed using a "bank barn" method. Browne designed the Worcester County Vocational Center at Snow Hill in 1966 and the Western Vocational Technological Center in Arbutus in 1968; collegiate-level designs included the Cecil Community College campus in 1971 and a dormitory and the Donnelly Science Building at Loyola College in 1977. These designs do not reveal a specific stylistic signature; they are generally utilitarian, devoid of decoration, with flat roofs. The earlier buildings tend to be a lower profile, while later buildings are more often multi-story. Materials used vary and include brick, concrete, and stucco. Air-conditioning was a new technology proudly included in the designs. Precast steel window frames with concrete panels are commonly found in Browne's work. Browne's use of stone at Baltimore Lutheran School appears to be relatively rare, but he employed it as a parish house for Grace Episcopal Church in Elkridge in 1963.

The Baltimore Lutheran School can be considered an example of mid-twentieth century educational architecture. Influenced by the International Style and Bauhaus movements and by Frank Lloyd Wright's philosophy of organic architecture, mid-century architects brought function-over-form design to the American suburbs. The style known as Mid-Century Modern emphasized clean simplicity and integration with nature, and the Baltimore Lutheran School illustrates these principles by emphasizing stone masonry (a natural material), working with the sloping landscape, and using the outdoors to separate different functions of the school campus. This style was particularly well-suited for academic buildings because educational theorists of the era prioritized clean, functional spaces, while school administrators wanted buildings that were inexpensive to build, easy to maintain, and that would last a long time. Additionally, the growth of the suburbs demanded new, larger, and often consolidated school buildings that could accommodate a variety of functions.

J. Prentiss Browne, Inc. eventually grew to be a firm of 20 architects. Besides schools, their works included churches, banks, offices, libraries, fire houses, and correctional facilities. By 1970, from his entry in the AIA directory, John Prentiss Browne considered his principle works to include the Maryland Correctional Institute in Hagerstown (1968); Cherry Hill Middle School in Cecil County (1968); and North East High School in Cecil County (1969). He won a design of excellence award for the Elkton High School Science Building in 1969. He retired in 1982, and died in 2005.

Architects who worked in the firm included Emerson J. Probst, Jr., Joseph H. Mason, and Walter Schamu. The state planning director James J. O'Donnell became an associate of J. Prentiss Browne, Inc. in 1968. Joseph H. Mason is given credit for the design of a high rise dormitory at Towson State College in 1969, and Emerson Probst was named as designer for an addition to Spring Grove State Hospital in Catonsville in 1971 and a clothing distribution center in Eldersburg in 1974. Cecil County superintendent of Schools Robert Gibson joined the Browne firm as an educational consultant in 1971. J. Prentiss Browne's wife Janet, an interior designer, also worked in the office, designing the interiors for her husband's buildings.

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Significance evaluation

The Baltimore Lutheran School is evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C, and is recommended not eligible for listing. It is a typical example of a private secondary school built in a suburban setting in the post World War II era. Suburbanization of residences led to the construction of community resources to be built closer to the new homes of the suburbs. The Baltimore Lutheran School is merely one example in the widespread pattern of community infrastructure spreading to the suburbs. Research did not reveal specific historical events or that would make the Baltimore Lutheran School eligible for listing under Criterion A. Research also did not reveal associations with persons significant to local, state, or national history, and therefore, the Baltimore Lutheran School is not eligible for listing under Criterion B. The Baltimore Lutheran School is an example of a Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced educational campus employing linear forms based on function and integrated into the natural setting, using both natural (stone masonry walls) and mass-produced materials (such as aluminum window panels). However, the campus buildings have been altered by additions that obscure the original campus plan by introducing elements that alter the design, feeling and association of the mid-century campus. While the Baltimore Lutheran School is the work of an architect, J. Prentiss Browne does not appear to have been a notably influential architect, with his oeuvre consisting of a mix of government, commercial, and religious buildings primarily in suburban locations. Thus, the Baltimore Lutheran School is not eligible for listing under Criterion C. The Baltimore Lutheran School is not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

The surveyed boundaries include the entirety of Parcel 35, Map 70 containing 23.241 acres, more or less.

Works Consulted

The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, s.v. "Browne, John Prentiss (ahd1005512), <http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1005512.aspx> (accessed July 1, 2014).

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Henry, Frank. "Churches Are Spending \$30,000,000- Plus." The Sun, September 20, 1953. Pg RE1. Immanuel Church Ground Breaking. The Sun, August 12, 1946. Pg. 11.

Kluge, David. "History Of Baltimore Lutheran High School Association." Provided by Alan Freeman, Headmaster, Baltimore Lutheran School via email July 1, 2014.

Lewis, Jack. "Unique School Designs." The Sun, May 14, 1967. Pg RE1.

"Lutheran High Unit Begun." The Sun, October 25, 1964. Pg. 161.

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Tatman, Sandra. "Philadelphia Architects and Buildings." http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/824028)

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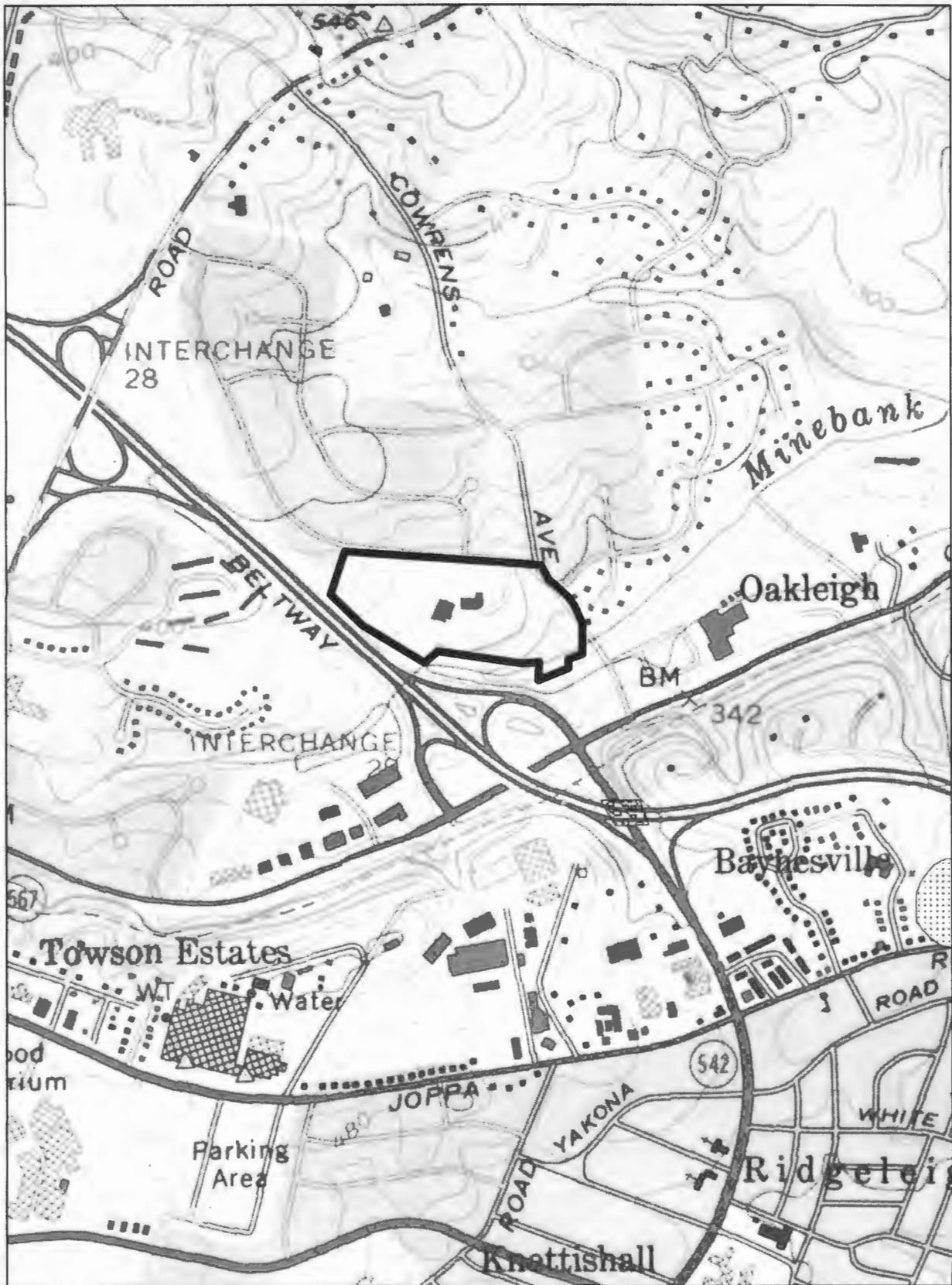
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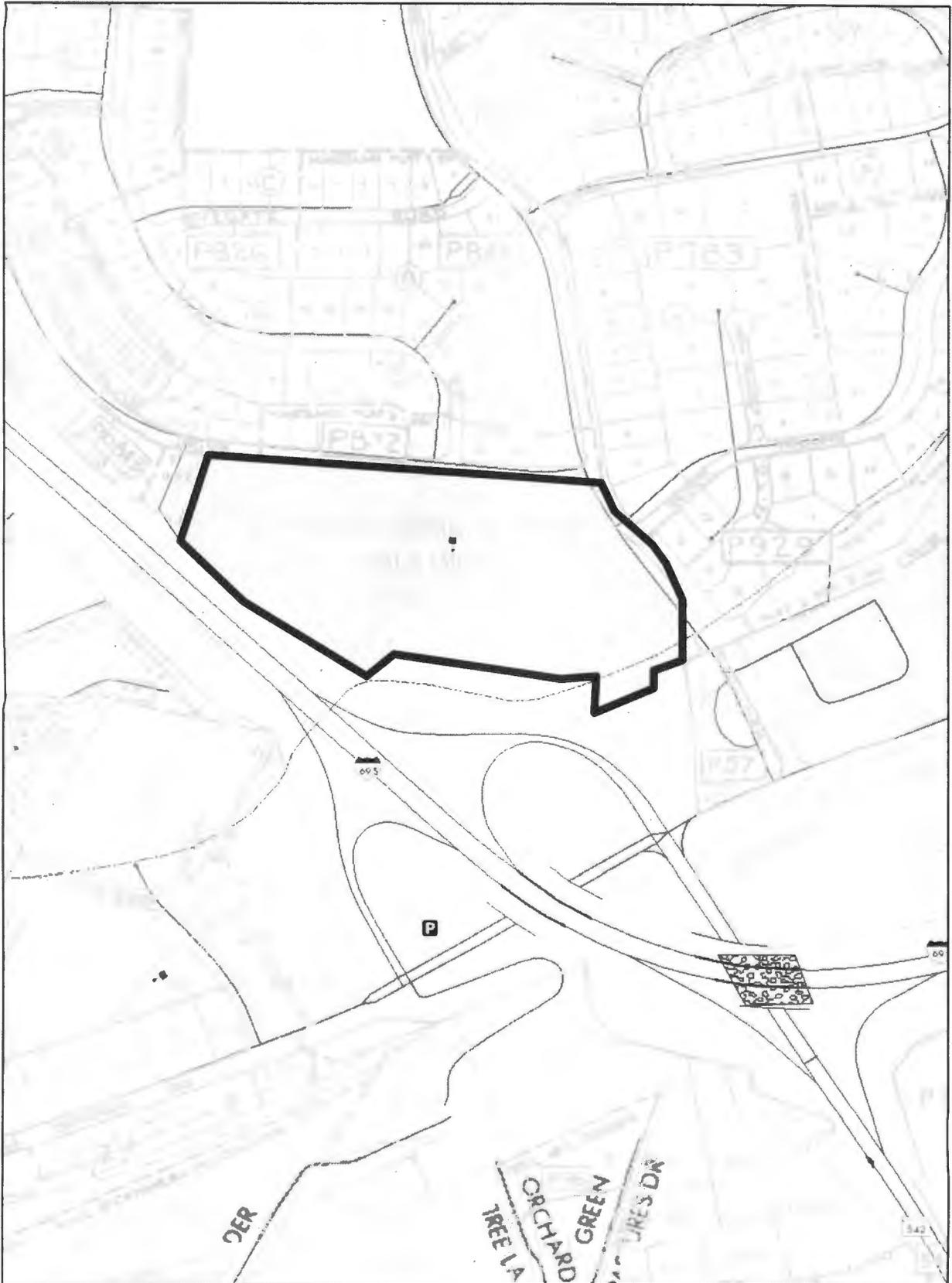


Baltimore Lutheran School
1145 Concordia Drive
Towson, MD 21286
(Baltimore County, Towson Quad)

1:12,000



BA-3296



Baltimore Lutheran School
1145 Concordia Drive
Towson, MD 21286
(Baltimore County, Towson Quad)

1:6,000



1 MAIN OFFICE
2 UPPER SCHOOL
3 MIDDLE SCHOOL
4 ATHLETIC FIELDS
5 FIELD HOUSE / GYMNASIUM

BA-3296

Baltimore Lutheran School

Baltimore Co., MD

R. Crew

7/10/14

MD SHPD

View facing west towards Hofmeister Hall

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BA-3296

Baltimore Lutheran School

Baltimore Co, MD

R. Crew

7/10/14

MD SHPO

View facing west towards Kuersteiner Hall

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BA-3296

Baltimore Lutheran School
Baltimore Co., MD

R. Crew

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MD SHPO

View facing northeast towards west and south
elevations of Hofmeister Hall.

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BA-3296

Baltimore Lutheran School

Baltimore Co., MD

R. Crew

7/10/14

MD SHPO

View facing west towards Activity Center
and athletic fields

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BA-3296

Baltimore Lutheran School

Baltimore Co, MD

R. Crew

7/10/14

MD SHPO

View facing northwest towards Kuersteiner Hall

S/4



BA-3296

Baltimore Lutheran School

Baltimore Co, MD

R. Crew

7/10/14

MD SHPO

View facing southeast towards north and west
elevations of Hofmeister Hall.

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