MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes X
no ___

Property Name: Martin Boulevard Elementary School Inventory Number: BA-2843

Address: Martin Boulevard (MD 700), 1500 City: Middle River Zip Code: ___

County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Middle River

Owner: ___

Tax Parcel Number: ___ Tax Map Number: ___ Tax Account ID Number: ___

Project: proposed demolition Agency: S/PSCP

Site visit by MHT staff: X no ___ yes Name: ___ Date: ___

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended ___

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

Is the property located within a historic district? X no ___ yes Name of District: ___

Is district listed? ___ no ___ yes Determined eligible? ___ no ___ yes District Inventory Number: ___

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Historical & Architectural Resources of Middle River, MD (draft report on file at MHT)

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Located at 1500 Martin Boulevard, this elementary school began as a four classroom facility in 1927. Additions occurred in 1939, 1949, and 1969. In my opinion, Martin Boulevard Elementary School is significant of its association with the development and expansion of Middle River. Middle River was the focus of intensive development during the late 1930's and 1940's due to the thriving Glenn Martin airplane plants. Thousands of wartime employees working at the Martin facilities sought adequate housing and education for their families. The planning and construction of schools such as Martin Boulevard served the rapid rise of students living in the new housing developments like Victory Villas. Educational institutions contributed to the suburbanization of the area. Based on this research, the school appears to be eligible.

Prepared by: J. Briehan Date Prepared: ___

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** ___

Criteria X **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D** **Considerations** ___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D** ___ **E** ___ **F** ___ **G** ___ **None**

MHT Comments:

L. Bowlin	**March 18, 1997**
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	**Date**
P. Kurtze	**April 11, 1997**
Reviewer, NR Program	**Date**

BA 2843
1927,1937,1947,1969
Middle River
Limited Public Access

Description:

Martin Boulevard Elementary School is a medium size Classical Revival one story school building with a partial basement. The building has common bond brick walls and low pitched or flat slag roofs. The building's core is a 1927 schoolhouse with a stone foundation, a pedimented arched entrance and two windowed side bays. The 1927 core is flanked by large 1947 west and east classroom wings. An additional north classroom wing dates to 1937. Another north addition containing a multi-purpose room, library and office area was built in 1969.

Statement of Significance:

Martin Boulevard Elementary is significant for its role in public education in the Middle River community. Its existing fabric shows evidence of four phases of construction in 1927, 1937, 1947, and 1969. The original four classroom school was built in 1927, while Middle River still a small rural community. The school was constructed as the Glenn Martin Aircraft Company was planning to purchase land in Middle River for a factory. As the plant expanded in the 1930s and 40s, increasing Middle River's population, the school grew along with the community. Additions were made to the building in 1937, 1947, and 1969, and the school continued to serve the community into the 1970s, 80s, and 90s. The 1927 and 1937 portions of the building are also examples of the work of Smith and May, an important early 20th century Baltimore architectural firm that specialized in school design.

Survey No. BA 2843

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name) Martin Boulevard Elementary School

historic Middle River School

and/or common Martin Boulevard Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 1500 Martin Boulevard ___ **not for publication**

city, town Middle River ___ **vicinity of** **congressional district** 15th

state Maryland **county** Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	X educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in progress	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Baltimore County Public Schools

street & number 9610 Pulaski Park Drive telephone no.: (410) 887-6301

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21220

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber WRC 640

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 485

city, town Towson state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ **federal** ___ **state** ___ **county** ___ **local**

depository for survey records

city, town **state**

7. Description

Survey No. BA 2843

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Summary

Martin Boulevard Elementary School is a medium size one story brick Classical Revival school building constructed in four major construction phases, all of which are evident in the fabric of the current structure. The building has a central core dating to 1927, part of which is visible as the central bay of the primary facade. Also visible on the primary facade are east and west classroom wings of the building dating to 1947. On the north side of the building is a small classroom addition dating from 1937. The north side of the building also has a large addition dating from 1969 which has a kindergarten, library, office space, and a large multi-purpose room. The entire building is constructed with brick exterior walls, and low pitched or flat slag roofs. The building has a partial basement located under the 1927 core and the west 1947 wing.

Description

The building's primary facade is composed of a center bay which has a low pitched gabled parapet. The pediment of the parapet is brick, with limestone trim. It sits on a thin, plain limestone cornice and entablature. This center section has an arched entranceway, which sits above ground level, and is reached by a set of concrete steps. This entrance is composed of a red metal double door with no windows, but with a 12 pane glass transom above it. The doorway is surrounded by simple stone trim, and is capped with a simple stone cornice. Above the doorway cornice is a brick arch with brick fill in it. The name of the school is mounted above the arch in small white letters. The doorway is flanked on each side by a single long, narrow rectangular window. The windows themselves have five panes and are metal in composition. The central bay sits on a raised foundation of random sandstone masonry.

The building's central section also has two side bays. These bays are built of brick, and have stone entablatures and cornices, with a short brick parapet sitting on top of them. Each bay has a set of four separate narrow five pane metal windows. Above these windows is a course of vertical bricks. These bays sit on foundations of random sandstone.

Flanking the center section are the east and west wings of the school, which were built in 1947. These wings are built of brick that closely matches the brick of the center 1927 section of the school. Each of the east-west wings is composed of a one bay connector section adjacent to the old 1927 portion of the building, and a main portion of the wing, which has a grouping of five windows placed into one opening, and an outer bay on each side which has a large opening in the middle filled with four narrow five pane windows. This large window is flanked on each side by a single long, narrow five pane window. Brick is visible at the foundation levels of the side wings, rather than the sandstone masonry evident in the 1927 center section of the elevation. Each section of the wings has a brick parapet capped with plain limestone coping. A course of vertical bricks is also placed above the windows to match the brick courses of the 1927 section of the facade. Brick quoins punctuate the outside corner of each of the wings. The side elevation of the west wing has a single doorway. This door and a window above it sit in a recess, and are mounted on a limestone panel. The door is a metal double door with six panes of glass in each door. The second story window recess is flanked on each side by brick quoins. A limestone entablature sits above the window/door recess, and this entablature is surmounted by a band of vertical bricks topped by rounded projecting decorative bricks. The elevation also has a brick parapet capped by limestone coping.

To the north of the central block and the 1947 side wings is a north wing addition constructed in 1937. Only the side elevations of this wing are visible. They are built of brick, with random sandstone foundations that match the central bay of the primary facade. The side elevations on each side have large window openings which are filled with sets of long, narrow five pane metal windows similar to the ones on the primary facade. The southernmost openings have five windows. The central grouping has six windows, and the northernmost group has four windows. Sitting directly above the windows is a course of vertical bricks. The wall has no stone cornice or entablature, but it does have a brick parapet that is capped with terracotta coping. Circular openings in the parapet walls allow water to drain from the roof into copper downspouts and pipes. (see continuation sheet 7.2)

A second addition was added to the north end of the building in 1969. It is sits directly north of the 1937 addition, and is connected to its north elevation. The western elevation of the 1969 addition is plain, and is composed of common bond red brick walls with a few unadorned utility doors. The plain brick walls are capped with limestone coping. The rear elevation of the building is also plain, enlivened only by two doorways with small tile wall sections above them, and by a single 12 pane metal window with tile sections above and below it. The east elevation has six windows identical to the north facade window. A recessed doorway sits in the middle of the six windows, splitting the windows into two sets of three.

On the interior, the building's primary entrance is in the middle of the south elevation. This entry leads into a north south hallway which intersects with an east-west hallway. On the east side of the north-south hallway, there is a storage room and a teachers' lounge. On the west side of this hall is a classroom. On the northeast side of the east-west corridor, there is another storage room and a girls bathroom. The northwest side of the east-west corridor also has a girls bathroom and a storage space. These spaces, along with two classrooms to the north of the east-west hall, comprise the original 1927 portion of the building.

The east-west hallway leads to the 1947 east and west wings of the school. Directly adjacent to the 1927 section of the building, each wing has a boys bathroom. These bathrooms sit on the south side of the main east-west hallway. North of the east-west hallway, both wings have a stairwell and an exit. The east-west hallway runs all of the way through both wings, and ends in a west elevation door in the west wing. Each wing has four classrooms, two on the south side of the east-west hall, and two on its north side.

The 1937 north wing of the school is reached by moving north in the entrance hall. This north wing is composed of a central north-south hallway with three classrooms on each side of the hall, although the first pair of classrooms actually belongs to the 1927 portion of the building. The 1927, 1939, and 1949 sections of the building all have plaster walls and light colored wood finish doors and trim. Most of the walls, doors and fixtures in the 1927, 1937, and 1947 sections of the buildings appear to date from the 1947 construction campaign and remodeling.

Travelling north in the main north-south hallway, one reaches the 1969 addition at the north side of the building. It is centered around a central north-south hallway. At the south end of this hallway on the west side, there is a library and associated conference rooms and audio visual rooms. On the east side of the hall is a kindergarten. Travelling further north in the hallway, there is a lobby on the west side. North of the lobby is a suite of offices, including administrative spaces, a principal's office, and conference rooms. On the west side of the north-south hall there is a small-east west corridor. North of this corridor is a large multi-purpose room with a high ceiling, concrete block walls, a wooden floor and a raised stage with curtains and theater lighting. North of the office suite on the west side of the north-south hall is a large study room. The west lobby opens into a doorway on the west, while the north-south hall terminates in a rear exit on the north elevation of the building.

8. Significance

Survey No. BA 2843

Period	Areas of Significant--Check and justify below			
_ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	___ architecture	X education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

specific dates 1927, 1937, 1947, 1969 **Builder/Architect** Smith and May, Architects

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___B ___C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary

The development of the Martin Boulevard Elementary School is an important component of the history of education in Middle River from 1927 to the present. The school was first constructed in 1927, and its growth reflects the patterns of growth in Middle River, which started out as farmland, became a low density suburban area in the 1920s, and then exploded into rapid growth just before World War II. Martin Boulevard Elementary reflects each phase of this development, with its numerous additions built to keep up with the growing population of the area. The school has continued to serve the students of the area as industrial production dwindled, and population in the area declined in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. The building is also an example of the work of the Baltimore architectural firm Smith and May, who were well known for their public school work.

History

The Middle River area geographically has been dominated by the presence of the Middle and Back rivers and their tributaries. Because of the abundant water and low lying land of the area, much of Middle River had a swampy character in the 19th century. While farms developed on the land, the area did not experience any concentrated development in the 19th century, perhaps because its swampy character was an obstacle to development. While other areas of Baltimore County were beginning to suburbanize rapidly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Middle River remained largely rural. As late as 1915, the area was described as being a mixture of farmland and swampy, undeveloped areas[1]. The Middle River and its tributaries made the area a popular water recreation site, and the area swelled with fishermen on weekends during warm weather.

The town of Middle River itself was described as having been a tiny, five family settlement in 1892. The town had a post office, a series of small stores, a saloon, and a small hotel. The saloon and the hotel were supported by a combination of fisherman during warm weather, and local farmers who often stopped off at the saloon for a drink while in town to use the post office or visit the store[2]. By 1900, there were a few more families living in the town, and additional growth had been sustained by 1918. At the end of World War I, the town had added additional stores, a second saloon, a feed warehouse, an ice plant, and a lumber yard. The area also boasted a railroad station, and this transportation link may account for the growth of the area in the early 1900s. The area also by this time featured two churches, Orem's Methodist and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church[3]. The area does not appear to have been dominated by a single ethnic or religious group.

see continuation sheets 8.2-8.7)

8.2 Significance (cont'd)

Public schools had existed in Baltimore County since a Maryland legislative act of 1847 created the Baltimore County School District and established taxes and a school board. The earliest school houses were crude log buildings. In the 1860s, architects Thomas and James Dixon prepared a set of plans for schoolhouses costing between $335 to $974. The buildings were generally no bigger than 24 by 36 feet. A uniform system of state public education was established in Maryland in 1864[4]. The history of education began in Middle River with the construction of a school house next to Orem's Methodist Church. Known as Orem's School, the building was a small, one room wood frame building. Built probably in the late 19th century, the Orem School served as the public school for Middle River up to 1927. However, by the 1920s Middle River was slowly becoming an attractive area for suburban development, and population increased. A resident reported remembering about 100 regular residents in the area by the 1920s, plus a host of additional people who had summer cottages in the area and were seasonal residents. The town of Middle River itself had about 25 homes in 1920[5]. Although the area's importance as a suburb was growing, it still remained a popular recreational and agricultural center in the early 1920s.

By 1927, growth in the area was extensive enough for the Baltimore County Public Schools to decide that it was time for a new school in the area. The Middle River School was part of an overall effort to improve Baltimore County schools and replace small and inadequate 19th century structures. The need for new school buildings was critical in many suburban areas where the population was increasing dramatically. Between 1920 and 1930 30 new elementary schools were built, and numerous additions were made to existing facilities[6].

Known as the Middle River School, the building far outclassed the old one-room Orem's School House. Plans for the Middle River School are dated June 20, 1927. It was to be a brick masonry building built on a stone foundation. The building had its main entrance on the south elevation of the building. Steps to the basement sat directly to the west of the entrance vestibule, and a teachers room sat directly to its east. An assembly room measuring 30'0" by 38'2" sat directly north of the vestibule. To the west of the assembly room was a classroom measuring 29'0" by 23'0". The classroom had a small coat room, and a boys bathroom was also placed on the south side of this classroom. On the east side of the assembly room was another identical classroom, but with a girls bathroom located to the north of the classroom space. The girls bathroom had a rear exit from the building. A rear block of the building to the north of the assembly room had a narrow central corridor flanked on each side by a classroom identical to the other two described previously. A rear doorway was located at the center of the north elevation of the building. The school had a basement with a boiler/furnace room and a small storage room. A 1928 PTA newsletter refers to a play room in the basement of the Middle River School. However, the Smith and May plans have no indication of such a room. The building was not as elaborate or as large as the two story Jacobean Revival school built in nearby Essex in 1924. This would seem to indicate that in the 1920s, Middle River was not as advanced as Essex in terms of suburban growth. Essex School had gone from 28 pupils in 1913 to 450 in 1920[7]. Aware that this type of rapid expansion might be possible in the future, Smith and May designed Middle River School so that wings could be easily added to the rear and sides of the building. The area was still growing when the school was completed in 1928, and future expansion was anticipated and planned for.

The foundation was built of local stone in a random pattern. The walls of the building were constructed of common bond brick. Courses of vertical bricks provided interest on the side elevations. The front section of the building had a central bay with a low pitched gable. The main entrance was at the center of this bay, and had a set of wood double doors with side lights and a transom. Above the transom was a brick round arch, with brick fill inside it. Two long, narrow windows flanked the front door, and a flag pole was mounted over the door. The side bays of the primary facade were decorated only with a few bands of vertical brick, labeled on the plans as "Colonial Brick." The roof of the center section of the building was gabled and supported by low pitched trusses. The roofs of the side sections of the building were built with a single pitch. All of the roofs were slag roofs laid in asphalt. Brick parapets ran around all four sides of the building. They were capped with terracotta coping. The rear elevation was plain, with a central double door, and a single long window on each side of the elevation. The school's brick construction, arched main entrance, and brick parapet walls give it a generally classical air which is hard to pin down to a particular style. Since Colonial Brick is mentioned in the plans, it is possible that Georgian was the style intended. However, the plans do not appear to follow any specific style, but again seem to be in a generally Classical style.

it is not known if the construction of the new school was related to the location of the Glenn Martin Aircraft Factory in the area, but this seems likely. Glenn Martin had flown his first airplane in Santa Ana California in 1909, and had started an aircraft factory in Los Angeles in 1912. He had engaged in a brief merger with the Wright Brothers in 1916, but by 1918 Martin had left for Cleveland, Ohio, to form the independent Glenn Martin Company. At the Cleveland location, Martin was able to develop the Martin MB-2 bomber, which Billy Mitchell used to accomplish the highly publicized sinking of the captured German battleship Ostfriesland in 1921. By the mid-1920s, Martin needed a larger factory, and wanted to be closer to Washington D.C. While he made highly publicized trips to inspect locations around the country, Martin had ordered his agents to quietly purchase land in Middle River[8]. Martin considered an urban site closer to downtown Baltimore, but political disputes interfered with these plans. Eventually, Martin planned to build in Middle River, a suburban area with little housing, because he thought potential workers would commute to his plant by automobile from more densely populated areas of the city[9]. As the Middle River School was being completed in 1928, construction was also being planned for the first factory buildings of the new Glenn Martin Middle River Factory. It seems unlikely that these two events were coincidental.

The school was designed by the architectural firm Smith and May of Baltimore. With an office at 763 Calvert Street, the partnership was a successful firm which appears to have specialized in the construction of school buildings and other institutional structures. Wilson Smith was educated at Johns Hopkins and Columbia universities, and was first listed as an architect in the Baltimore City Directory in 1903. He worked in the architectural office of Parker, Thomas and Rice until 1915, when he began his partnership with May. Howard May was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, and worked as a draftsman from 1905 to 1910. From 1911 to 1914 May was listed in the Baltimore City Directory as an independent architect. In 1915, Smith and May begin appearing in the directory as a partnership. Institutional buildings seem to have been a specialty of the firm, and both partners were employed as consulting architects by the Maryland Department of Education. Wilson Smith was credited with the design of the McDounogh School, the State Normal School in Salisbury, Maryland, and Gwynns' Falls Junior High School. Howard May has been credited with the design of Forest Park Junior High School in Baltimore County, and a number of buildings in College Park, Maryland[10]. Smith and May also designed the Jacobean Revival style school built at Essex in 1924-25.

The Middle River School drawings were taken from a standard plan Smith and May had developed for use at multiple sites by Baltimore County Public Schools. Examination of the drawings reveals that the name "Middle River" was added to the title block of a generic school plan which had been drawn up by Smith and May for Baltimore County. The drawings also called for the name of the school to be displayed in small letters above the primary entrance. However, for this feature, a blank space on the drawing is followed by the word "school," indicating that the specific name was to be filled in for each site. This again demonstrates that these drawings were copied form a prototype meant for use at multiple sites. An April 1928 article in the Baltimore County Schools PTA newsletter shows that another school of this same design was built at Perry Hall. The primary facade of the building was identical to Middle River. However, the rear section of the building appears to have been expanded from the original prototype, to accommodate a total of six classrooms, as opposed to the four accommodated at Middle River. Otherwise, the Perry Hall school appears to be largely identical to the Middle River School. It is not known if any other schools were built according to the Middle River prototype. The Perry Hall school was demolished, probably in the 1960s.

Early in its history, the Middle River School experienced an influx of students. In 1931, a school consolidation plan closed the public school at Poplar, and brought those students to Middle River[11]. The Middle River School building served the community of Middle River during the 1920s and 30s as it experienced limited growth associated with the Glenn Martin plant. During the 1930s Martin built the B-10 bomber at Middle River, as well as the famous "China Clipper" seaplanes that made journeys across the Pacific Ocean. However, Middle River continued to be a small residential community during most of the 1930s, with most workers still commuting in by car[12]. By 1937, the Glenn Martin Company was planning a residential community for Middle River to accommodate the growing number of workers who were clogging local roads as they made long commutes from other communities. By 1939, the government had begun stepping up arms production because of the threat of U.S. involvement in the Second World War. The Glenn Martin staff began to increase exponentially, and the plant grew to 1,000 acres. By the time of U.S.

involvement in World War II, the Martin plant was employing no less than 53,000 workers. The lack of housing in Middle River had become a crisis, and construction of a planned housing community sponsored by Glenn Martin was begun in 1939. The housing was planned on "garden city" principles. It was less dense than traditional urban developments, included more green space, and concentrated shopping facilities at "park and shop" areas meant to be reached by automobile. Housing developments were also initiated by developers not associated with Martin, and public housing was constructed in the area by the federal government. The new employment assured jobs for the residents of Middle River, but it also attracted new residents from other areas of Baltimore County, and from economically stagnant areas of the Midwest and the South. This contributed to the housing crisis, which was partially solved by the rapid construction of prefabricated houses and trailers. At one point, Martin even considered towing in old steamships to serve as floating apartments[12].

The Baltimore County Public Schools once again seem to have anticipated the growth of Middle River. In 1937, two years before major pre-war expansion kicked in at Martin, plans were carried out for an addition to the rear of Martin Boulevard Elementary. The school addition was designed by Smith and May, and was barely distinguishable from the 1927 school.

The new addition was built on the north elevation of the building. The addition was essentially a four classroom structure, with a hall in the middle. Each classroom was the standard 29'0" by 23'0" size. The classrooms were designed with blackboards on three sides, and windows on one wall of the room. A small coat room was located at the back of each of the classrooms, and each one had a single built-in bookcase, and a single built-in "dresser." The addition was basically an extension of the proportions and overall plan of the original building, and had probably been envisioned at the time of the original construction of the building. The new addition was built without any basement space. The addition converted the building from a small four classroom school building to a larger 8 classroom facility. It represented a significant improvement, but it also fell short in a number of ways. Significant space for a comfortable teachers' lounge or a principal's office was not provided. No library space was included, and the bathroom facilities were not expanded. Basically, the classroom seating capacity of the school was enlarged, but expansion of support facilities for the increased numbers of teachers and students using the building was not provided.

Middle River continued to expand during World War II, but the shortage of funds and strategic building materials during the war probably prevented work on further additions to the Middle River School. The limited facilities of the school must have been terribly overtaxed during the war years. The Glenn Martin Plant had 53,000 employees, many of them living in Middle River. The need to educate the children of these employees, plus children of other residents, must have created an incredible overcrowding problem at the small Middle River School. An expansion of all facilities at the school was drastically needed.

In 1945 the school board began filling the needs of the school system that had been neglected during the war. The answer to Middle River School's problems came in 1947, as plans were drawn up for a second addition to the building. The architect for the new addition was William E. Gray of Baltimore, who had offices at 12 East Pleasant Street. The 1937 addition had expanded the building, but had left the interior configuration of the original building intact. The 1947 construction project was an integrated expansion project, and included new construction and radical remodeling of the interior spaces of the 1927 school building. As a result of the 1947 remodeling, most of the existing interior fabric and hardware of the 1927 portion of the school actually dates to 1947. Because of the scale of the additions and the extensive remodeling of the older fabric, Middle River must have seemed like a new building when the work was completed. In fact, the school was re-named Martin Boulevard Elementary shortly after the completion of the 1947 expansion.

The two rear classrooms of the 1927 building were left intact. However, the walls of the classrooms, bathrooms, and assembly rooms at the front of the building were demolished, and the space was completely reorganized. Corridors were created running north-south and east-west through the whole 1927 section of the building. To the west of the central corridor, at the front of the building, a library was created out of space formerly occupied by a classroom and by the boys lavatory. On the east side of the corridor, the former classroom and girls bathroom space was carved up into a teachers' room, a principal's office, and an infirmary with rooms for a doctor and nurse. An east-west hall ran north of these rooms. On the north side of this hall, two girls bathrooms were installed, with six toilets each. Part of this space was also converted into a supply room and book storage space.

both of the newly constructed east and west wings contained a boys bathroom, and an east-west corridor that connected with the center section of the building. Each wing had a total of four classrooms, with two on the north side of the hall, and two on the south. Each classroom was approximately 29' by 24', and was equipped with a coat room at the rear with a sink. Each of the wings had a doorway that opened out to the north. Basement space was only dug out underneath the west wing. This basement space was used for a multi-purpose room, which essentially served as a lunchroom. A kitchen space was also installed in the basement. It was fully equipped for the preparation of hot meals, and had modern conveniences like electric ranges and a dishwasher. Also included in the basement were storage rooms and a switchboard room. Reflecting the racial segregation still common in the period, separate restrooms were built for black and white cafeteria women. The addition had finally made Middle River into what was considered a complete elementary school building in the postwar period. The school had now grown to 14 classrooms, and importantly, it had also gained significant expansions in support facilities. It had a principal's office, infirmary, library, cafeteria and kitchen, and a larger teachers' room. Lavatory facilities had also been expanded in proportion to the increase in classroom space.

Suburban growth continued in many areas during the 1950s, but for Middle River, it was a different story. Employment at the Martin plant had declined from its wartime level of over 50,000 to around 7,000 by the early 1950s. The plant still had contracts to build Cold War weapons like surface to air missiles and components for ICBMs, but it could not hope to sustain production at World War II levels. This fluctuation at Martin had a devastating effect on the Middle River area. Unemployment surged as Martin laid off workers. This trend was reversed as the Korean War led to increased production of arms in the late 1950s, and employment at Martin soared to 27,000. However, by the early 1960s, the trend had reversed again, and employment dropped to 10,500. Economic and social problems began to develop in Middle River, as unemployment and instability took their toll. The high school dropout rate increased and juvenile delinquency became a problem by the early 1960s[13].

During the 1950s, the school functioned with the 1947 arrangements. The school board probably hesitated to invest any more money into expanding the Martin Boulevard Elementary School. The board had already expanded the school twice, and the Middle River area was now not experiencing growth, but violent population fluctuations because of the rising and falling fortunes of the Glenn Martin Middle River Plant. A new addition to Martin Boulevard Elementary was undertaken in 1969, but probably not because of population expansion. The population of Middle River was, if anything, declining by this point. Employment at Glenn Martin was slipping steadily, and had declined to 800 by 1977[13]. The motivation for the addition to Martin Boulevard seems to have been tied to an overall improvement in the school facilities rather than an interest in accommodating larger numbers of students.

The addition was designed by Marshall and Lewis Architects, with Ewell, Bomhart and Associates as consulting engineers, and Niles and Davidson as mechanical engineers. The addition was the first to completely disregard the architectural character of the older portions of the school. While the addition is built of brick, it is otherwise stylistically distinct from the rest of the school. The addition basically reflects a no-nonsense 1960s modernism, and has almost no design relationship to the previous buildings. The building's asymmetry is in contrast to the sense of compositional balance in the old building, and no attempt was made by Marshall and Lewis to create a building that would be visually compatible with the Classical styling of the rest of the building. The interior of the 1969 addition is also drastically different from the older parts of the school. The walls were no longer plaster, but built of concrete block. Ceilings were constructed of acoustical tile, while doors and other hardware were also very modern in form.

The new addition included only one traditional classroom, a kindergarten. The main spaces were a library, and a 50' by 64' multi purpose room which could be used as a gymnasium or as a theater. Also included in the addition was a large block of office space, with room for general offices, two conference rooms, a work room and a principal's office. The library was also equipped with its own work room, conference room, and audio-visual room. The building also contained storage spaces for toys, and for lawn and gym equipment. Restrooms and a room for the school nurse was also included.

The movement of certain services into the new section of the building freed up spaces in the old building for new uses. The old library was converted into a special education room. The old complex of teachers lounge, principal's office and infirmary was cleared out and converted into a large teachers' lounge. The old principal's office was converted into a storeroom. The new addition went even further in making the facilities of the school adequate and

comfortable. An appropriately large space for gym activities and theater had been gained, along with a new and larger library, comfortable office space for the principal and administrative staff, and useful storage space. In addition, space in the old portion of the building was freed up for new uses.

The school served the community with this configuration through the 1970s, 80s and much of the 90s. By the late 1990s, the facility was aging, and it was decided that its design was not compatible with current educational philosophies. In 1996, it was decided by the Baltimore County Public Schools that construction of a new school was a more favorable and cost-effective option than renovation of the existing facility. Plans were made for a new school on the east edge of the existing school property, while demolition was planned for the existing school.

NOTES

1. Brooks, Neal and Eric Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Baltimore: Friends of the Towson Library, 1979.

2. Asher, Edith. "Middle River as a 5 Family Town." *Baltimore Sun.* Nov. 28, 1954. Middle River Clipping File, Baltimore County Historical Society.

3. Smith, Aolia. "I Remember When Middle River Had 25 Houses." *Baltimore Sun.* Nov. 28, 1954. Middle River Clipping File, Baltimore County Historical Society.

4. Crewe, Amy. *No Backward Step was Taken: Highlights in the History of the Public Schools of Baltimore County.* Baltimore: Teachers Association of Baltimore, 1949. pp. 19-35.

5. Smith, Aolia. "I Remember..."

6. Crewe, Amy. *No Backward Step...* p.92.

7. Ibid. 100-101.

8. "The Early Years." undated article. *Middle River Clipping File.* Baltimore County Historical Society.

9. Breihan, John. *Historical and Architectural Resources of Middle River.* p. 29

10. *Obituary File.* Baltimore County Historical Society.

11. Crewe, Amy. *No Backward Step...* pp. 100-101.

12. Breihan, John. *Historical and Architectural Resources of Middle River.* pp. 37-52.

13. Brooks, Neal and Eric Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* pp. 370-371.

14. Ibid.

15. Ibid.

8.7 Significance (cont'd)

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological Development Period: Industrial Urban Dominance (1870-1930), modern period (1930-present)

Historic Period Themes: Social/Educational/Cultural; Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Educational

Known Design Sources: Smith and May (1927, 1937); William Gray (1947); Marshall and Lewis (1969)

Historic Contexts: Education; Architecture

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 2843

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Survey No. BA 2843

Acreage of nominated property 8.30

Quadrangle Name Middle River **Quadrangle Scale** 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

		Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A					B			
C					D			
E					F			
G					H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary begins at the corner of Martin Boulevard and River Road. It then runs approximately 600 feet east along Martin Boulevard. It then runs north about 700 feet to a point just south of Pielert Avenue. The boundary then runs west approximately 300 feet, then runs south about 350 feet. The boundary then runs east again for approximately 250 feet, then runs south along River Road for about 250 feet. The boundary represents the parcel of land which has historically been associated with Martin Boulevard Elementary School.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roy Hampton, Historian; Charissa Y. Wang, Principal/Partner

organization	Hardlines: Design & Delineation	**date**	November 1997
street & number	4608 Indianola Avenue	**telephone**	614-784-8733
city or town	Columbus	**state**	Ohio

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7680

9.2 Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County

Breihan, John R. *Historical and Architectural Resources of Middle River, Maryland.* National Register Multiple Property Nomination, 1997.

Brooks, Neal and Eric Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Baltimore: Friends of the Towson Library, 1979.

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, 1949.

Federation of Parent Teacher Associations of Baltimore County "School News." 1928-1930.

Henry, Geoffrey B. *Maryland State Historic Sites Inventory Form, Essex Elementary School.* March, 1995.

Gray,William E, Architect. "Addition to Middle River School." Plans and elevations dated November 12, 1947. Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Engineering.

Helwig, G. Alfred, and Helen Huttenhauer. *Baltimore County Serves the People.* Towson, MD: Board of Education of Baltimore County, 1961.

Marshall and Lewis, Architects. "Alterations and Additions to the Martin Boulevard Elementary School." Plans and elevations dated August 5, 1968. Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Engineering.

Maryland Historical Society. *Obituary File.*

Polk, R.L. and Company. *City Directory of Baltimore.* 1895-1947. Maryland Historical Society.

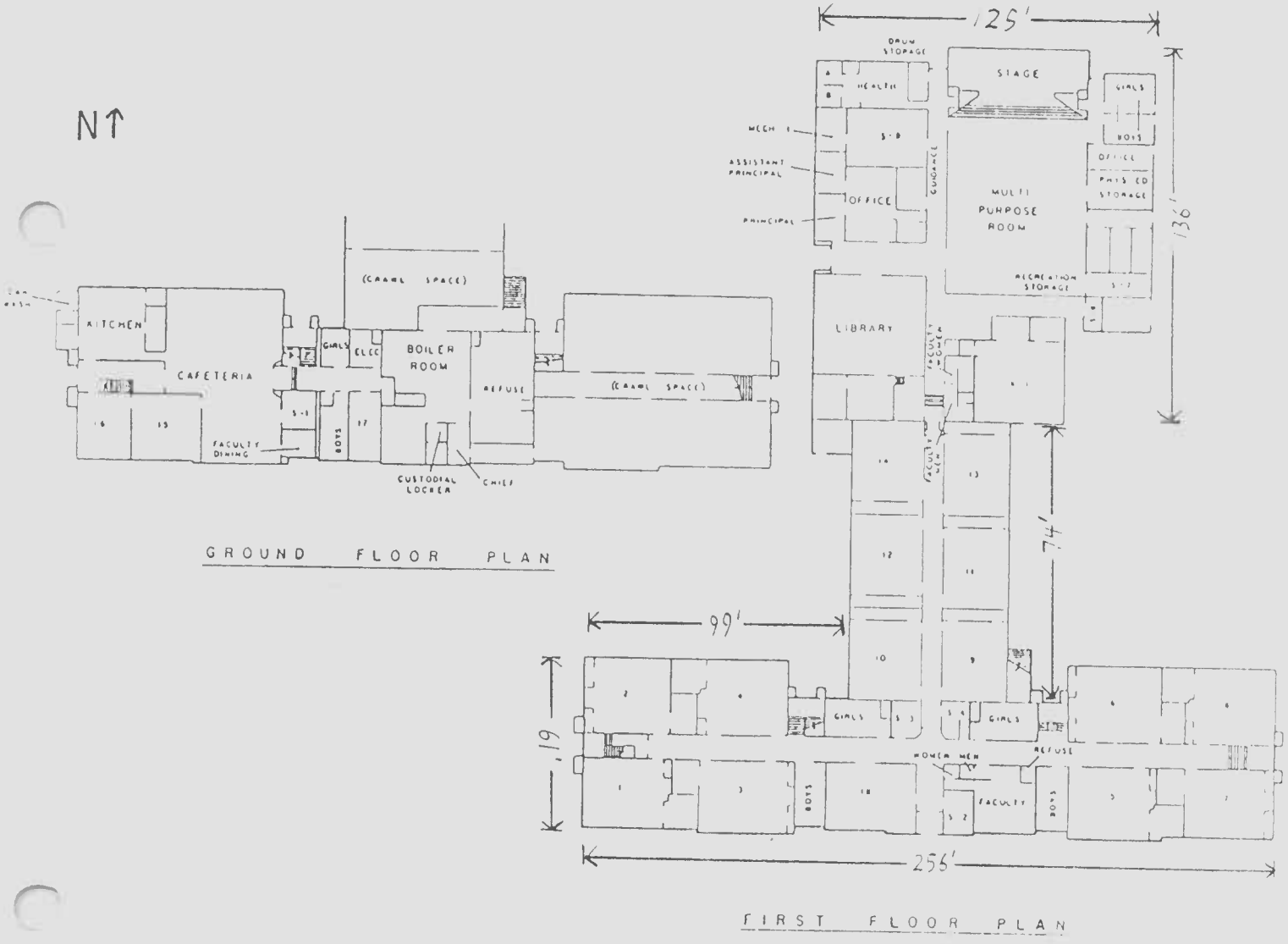
Smith and May, Architects. "School at Middle River." Plans and elevations dated June 20, 1926. Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Engineering.

Smith and May, Architects. "Additions to School at Middle River." Plans and elevations dated May 1, 1937. Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Engineering.

Floor Plan

Survey No. BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County

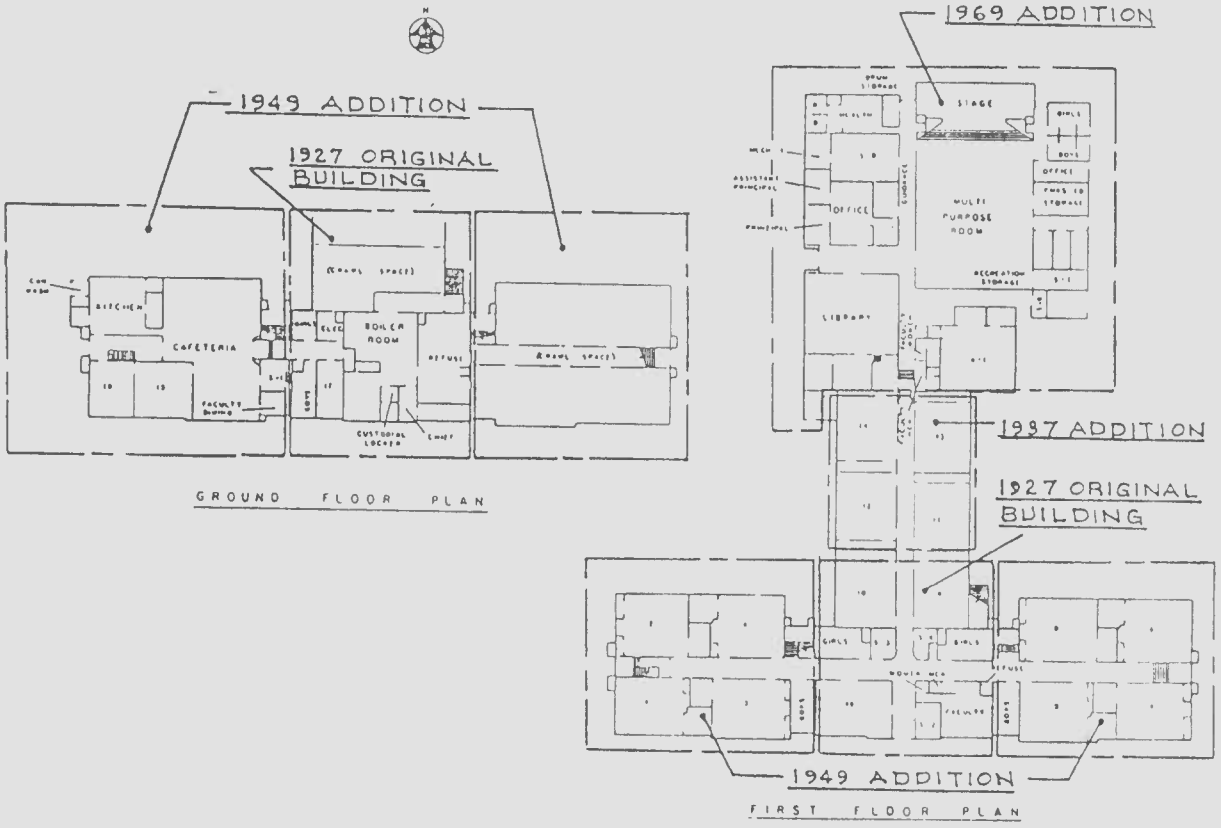
Martin Boulevard Elementary
Middle River
1969 Plan of Martin Boulevard Elementary
Prepared by Baltimore County Schools



Floor Plan With Phases of Construction

Survey No. BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County

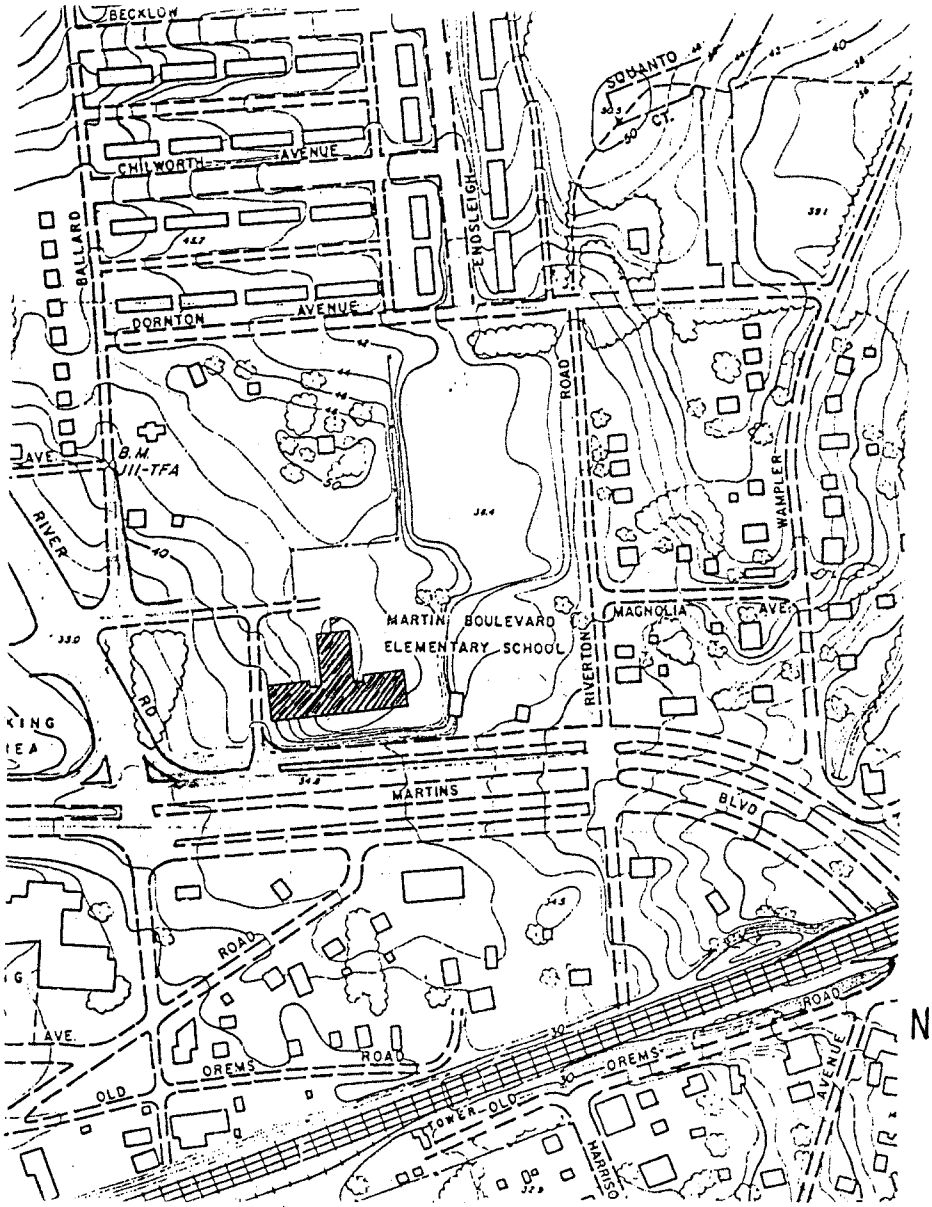
Martin Boulevard Elementary
Middle River
Construction Phases Plan



Location Map

Survey No. BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County

Martin Boulevard Elementary
Middle River
Photogrammetric Map of the
Baltimore County Metropolitan Area
Section N.E. 4-I "Middle River"



BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County Maryland

R. Kampton

September 18 1985

[illegible] SHPO

[illegible] Elevation [illegible]

[illegible] east [illegible] ards south [illegible]

#[illegible]

BA-2843

Martin B[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ition to school

[illegible] east at South end of property

[illegible]

BA-2843

BA-2843

BA-2843

ELEMENTARY

BA 2843

BA 2843

BA 2843

BA-2843
Martin

BA-2843

BA 2843

BA 2443

BA 2643

BA 2843

BA 2843

BA-2843

BA-2483

BA 2843

BA-2843

#

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
South elevation of school - detail showing
windows at eastern bay of original 1927
section of South elevation. Camera pointed North

22 of 65.

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
South elevation of school. Detail of central main entrance. Part of original 1927 fabric comera pointed North.
23 of 65.

MARTIN BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County Maryland
Ray Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
South Elevation of school. Shows original 1927
fabric. Camera pointed north.
24 of 65.

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Southeast corner of school, showing 1947 east
wing addition to school. Camera pointed northwest.
#25 of 65.

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School.
Baltimore County, Maryland.
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
East elevation of east wing 1997 addition to school building. Camera pointed west.
26 of 65.

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD. SHPO
Southeast corner of school, showing fabric of original 1927 school and of 1947 east and west wings - Camera pointed northwest.

#27 of 65.

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Basement cafeteria space in West wing 1947 addition.

#28 of 65.

RESPECT

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

Basement Cafeteria Space in West wing 1967 addition

29 of 65.

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Basement Cafeteria space in West Wing 1947 addition

#30 of 65

BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Stairwell on north side of 1947 West
wing addition. Camera pointed north

#31 of 65

FAMILIES
TOGETHER

BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997.
MD SHPO

Main East-West Hallway of School. Taken from 1947 West Wing. View into 1927 central section of building, and into east 1947 wing in the distance. Camera pointed east.

32 of 65

ALL ABOUT ME

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Classroom in 1927 portion of building. Camera
pointed southwest.
#33 of 65.

Happy
Birthday

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Classroom in 1927 portion of building. Camera
pointed Southeast

34 of 65

BOOK STORE

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997.
MD SHPO
Door of bookstore in 1927 section of school
Door located on north side of main
east-west hallway. Camera pointed north.

35 of 65.

EXIT

BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Entrance hall of 1927 portion of school.
Camera pointed South. Shows primary entrance
of South facade

#36 of 65.

6
CRANE
LANE

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Ray Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Door of classroom located in 1947 addition

37 of 65

BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997.
MDSHPO
Water fountain in 1947 addition

38 of 65

FAMILIES
PLAY
TOGETHER

BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 16, 1997
MD SHPO
Main east-west hallway - looking west into 1947
West wing addition

39 of 65.

HELLO

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

Classroom in 1927 section of building. Detail of doorway + doors that open into main east-west hallway. Camera pointed North.

#40 of 65

LEARN
TOGETHER

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Ray Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

View looking from 1927 section of building into hallway of 1937 north wing addition. Camera pointed north.

41 of 65

9

BA-2843
Morton Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997

MDSHPO
Classroom door detail in 1937 North wing addition. Camera pointed east.

42 of 65

compat

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County Maryland
S. Hamilton
September 18, 1997
Mr. Smith
Classroom in 1937 north wing
Camera pointed northeast

43 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
R. Hampton
September 8, 1997
MDSHPO
Classroom in 1937 north wing
Camera pointed Southwest

44 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Classroom's east room, in 1937 north wing
of building. Camera pointed west.

45 of 65

FAMILIES

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School.

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hampton

September 1, 1937

MD SHPO

Main hallway of 1937 north wing. Camera pointed south.

#46 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hamlin
September 16, 1987
MDSHPO
Main north-south hallway of 1969 addition, viewed from northern edge of 1937 addition, camera pointed north.

47 of 55

ALL ABOUT OUR KINDER GARTEN

BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 16, 1997
MD SHPO
East west hall in 1969 addition
Looking into east-west hall from north-south hall
camera pointed east.

48 of 65

BA 2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hamptin

September 16, 1997

MD SHPO

Multi-Purpose Room in 1969 addition

Camera pointed north.

#49 of 65

BA 2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hamptin
September 16, 1997
MD SHPO
Multi Purpose Room, in 1969 addition.
Camera pointed Southeast.

#50 of 65

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

Lobby of 1969 addition showing exit on west side of building, and entrance to office suite. Camera pointed west.

#51 of 65.

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

North hallway of 1969 addition, viewed from lobby. Camera pointed north.

52 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MDSHPO

Office suite in 1969 addition, main administrative staff area. Camera pointed northeast.

53 of 65

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School.

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

Main space of office suite in 1909 addition

Camera pointed South.

#54 of 65.

MARTIN
BOULEV SCHOOL

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland.

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

Historic Photograph on display in lobby of 1959 addition

#55 of 65

BA-2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School.

Baltimore County, Maryland.

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997

MD. SHPO

Historic photograph on display in lobby of 1969 addition

#56 of 65.

BA 2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland

Roy Hampton

September 18, 1997.

MD SHPO

Historic photograph on display in lobby of 1969 addition

57 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Stairwell on north side of 1947 west wing addition. Camera pointed north

#58 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Basement hall ~ 1947 west wing addition
looking towards door to 1927 boiler room
Camera pointed east
59 of 65.

FALLOUT SHELTER

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 16, 1997
MD SHPO
Cold War era fallout shelter sign over
entrance to basement boiler room
camera pointed east
#60 of 65

FALLOUT SHELTER

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MDSHPO
Cold War-era fallout shelter sign over
entrance to basement boiler room.
Camera pointed east
#61 of 65

IN MEMORY OF
MISS SARAH E. PIELERT
PRINCIPAL OF
OPERA SCHOOL
1891 - 1933

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
Memorial plaque on west side of hallway
just inside primary entrance to school on
south facade. Camera pointed west
#62 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 4, 1997
MD SHPO
Woodwork details in 1927 portion of building
Located on east side of hall, just inside
primary entrance on south elevation (corner
facing east)
#63 of 65

BA 2843

Martin Boulevard Elementary School

Baltimore County, Maryland

Ray Hemp

September 18, 1997

MD SHPO

View of library on 1969 addition. Camera pointed Southwest

54 of 65

BA-2843
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Baltimore County, Maryland
Roy Hampton
September 18, 1997
MD SHPO
View of library in 1969 addition. Camera pointed
Northeast

#65 of 65