

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

Property/District Name: Frank Knox School/Pax River NAS Survey Number: SM-508

just outside the gates

Project: Rehabilitation Agency: NAVY

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name Bowlin and Andrews Date 3/16/93

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)
 The Frank Knox School is located just outside the main gate of the Naval Air Station (NAS), Patuxent River. Constructed in 1946 by the Navy, the building accommodated the tremendous influx of students brought into the area as the Navy developed NAS during World War II. Once the construction of the school was complete, the Navy transferred the school to the County. The school is significant for its association with the development of the Station. The establishment of the naval installation at Patuxent River precipitated significant changes in St. Mary's County. The Navy transformed a rural farming area to a high tech test and evaluation facility. As the station grew, the Navy assisted the County in providing some of the necessary infrastructure improvements. The school is an excellent example of the Navy's attempt to accommodate the changing environment. Designed by the Baltimore architectural firm of Whitman, Edmunds & White, the brick school reflects an unusual configuration that provides a flat-roofed, "E"-shaped building. The classrooms utilize the one story wings, while the multi-purpose and library occupy two story spaces. The fenestration on the wings is characterized by window groupings of five double hung sashes with a 3/3 vertical muntin configuration. Throughout the school, conscientious design is relected such as the concrete octagon openings, exterior classroom entrances and the curved lines hinting at Art Deco influence. The building retains a high level of integrity in its design, location, setting, materials and association. The Trust concurred with the Navy that the building is eligible.

N.B. The Trust received the original plans for the building; they have been accessioned into the library.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: compliance file "Frank Knox School"

INCLUDING PHOTOS

Prepared by: L. Bowlin

L. Bowlin 05-27-93
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
R. Andrews 5.27.93
 Reviewer, NR program Date

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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 Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

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

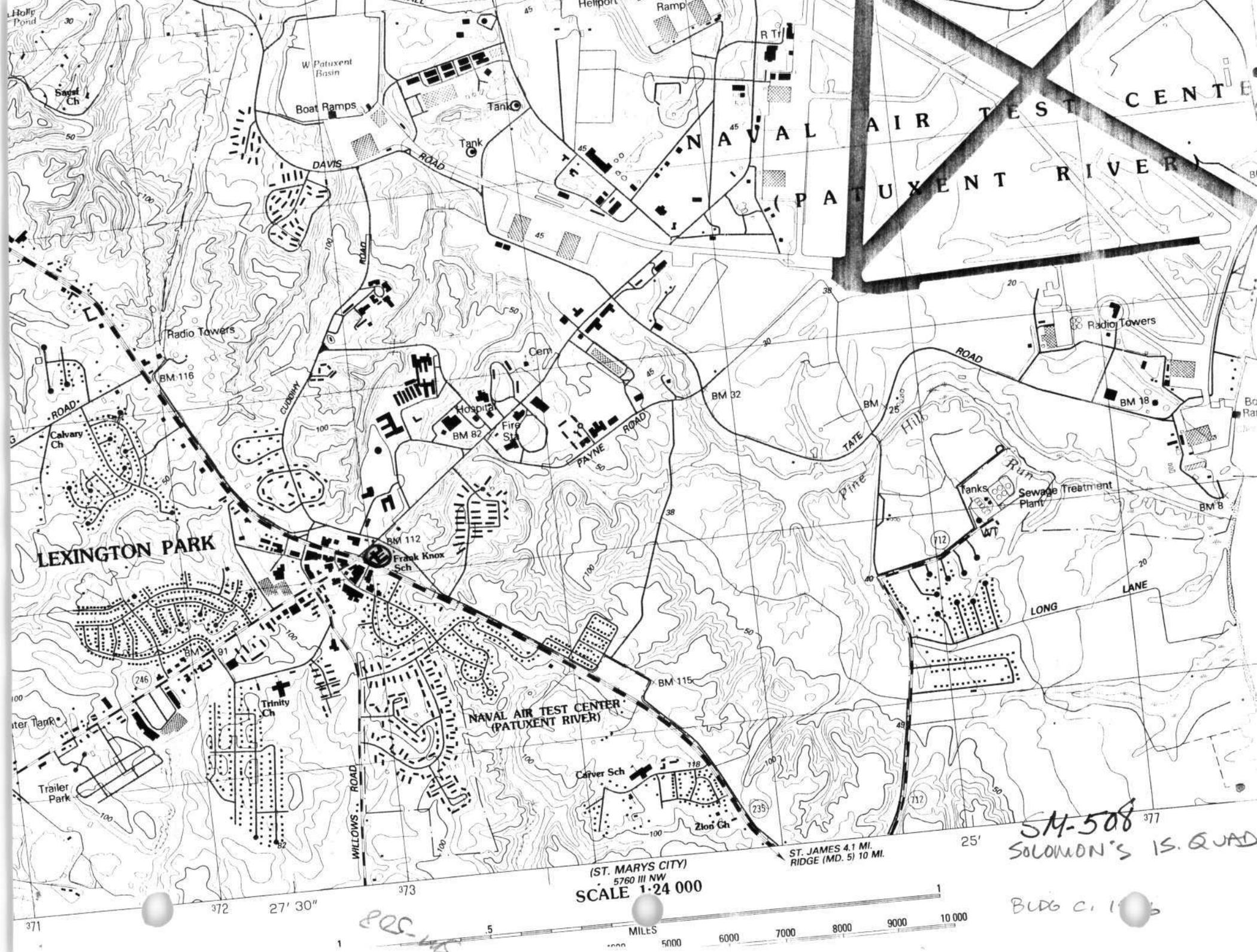
V. Resource Type:

Category: building

H i s t o r i c E n v i r o n m e n t : suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): educational, elementary school, community library

Known Design Source: Whitman, Edmunds, White, Baltimore Firm, H. Clay Primrose



LEXINGTON PARK

NAVAL AIR TEST CENTER
(PATUXENT RIVER)

NAVAL AIR TEST CENTER
(PATUXENT RIVER)

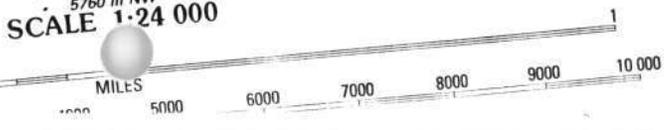
(ST. MARYS CITY)
5760 III NW
SCALE 1:24 000

ST. JAMES 4.1 MI.
RIDGE (MD. 5) 10 MI.

SM-508
SOLOMON'S IS. QJAD

BUDG C. 1

800



371

372

27' 30"

373

25'

377

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River

other names/site number Building 444 (original), Building 2189 (current), ^{SM-508}~~SM-417-2444~~

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city or town Naval Air Station Patuxent River vicinity

state Maryland code MD county St. Mary's code 037 zip code 20670

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland: Historic and Architectural Resources

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	<u>DEFENSE</u>	Sub:	<u>Naval facility - school</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	<u>DEFENSE</u>	Sub:	<u>Naval facility - school</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions):

Modern

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Concrete</u>
roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
walls	<u>Concrete-block, brick</u>

other	_____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions):

Architecture

Military

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

Period of Significance

1946

Significant Dates

1946

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Whitman, Edwards and White, Architects, Baltimore, MD
Victor Frenkil dba Baltimore Contractors, Baltimore, MD

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, Public Works Office

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 2 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>373100</u>	<u>4236100</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u> See continuation sheet.						

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard M. Casella

organization The Louis Berger Group, Inc. date May 1999

street & number 100 Halsted Street telephone 973-678-3427

city or town East Orange state NJ zip code 07019

Additional Documentation

(Submit the following items with the completed form:)

Continuation Sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Naval Air Station Patuxent River

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Patuxent River state MD zip code 20670

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

DESCRIPTION

The Frank Knox School is a one-story, irregularly shaped masonry school building with a flat roof and concrete slab foundation. The building plan consists of a main block with entrance foyer and three parallel classroom wings, a gymnasium/auditorium wing extending off the south side of the main block, and an administrative wing extending west off the end of the first classroom wing. The base security office is now housed in the administrative wing. The primary entrance features three sets of double doors with transom lights, recessed in a flat-roofed portico. The brick walls flanking the entrance have inset concrete panels with octagonal openings stacked to form a narrow vertical element. This detail is repeated around the building, usually in the form of a windscreen adjacent to a rear entrance. These screen walls are used to hold up one side of a half-cantilevered roof over the rear entrances.

The original wood windows and doors were replaced circa 1995 with metal framed insulated units of the same glass and mullion/muntin configuration, in accordance with an agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Banks of three-over-three casement windows, commonly in groups of five, run nearly continuously around the building. The steel doors have three horizontal lights, corresponding to the one-over-one transom lights above and to the building's windows.

The entrance block, gymnasium, and administrative block stand taller than the classroom wings and are distinguished with a wide fascia band of concrete block painted white. The classroom wings have strong projecting cornices over a narrow fascia. The interior retains many original features, including terrazzo floors, lighting fixtures, and blond Roman brick walls in the common areas.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Frank Knox School was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historic Preservation Officer in 1993. The school is associated with the development of the Naval Air Station and possesses integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to adequately represent its unique architectural style, which fuses Classical and Modern design concepts. The school is evaluated for National Register eligibility based upon criteria outlined in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form *Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland, Historic and Architectural Resources* under the property type "Personnel Support Facilities."

Built as the center for elementary education for children of both Naval and civilian families on the base and in the area, the school represents an important first step toward linking the military establishment with the local community.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Frank Knox elementary school was built under Contract NOy-7389, which was awarded on 2 February 1944 to Victor Frenkil of Baltimore, Maryland, operating as Baltimore Contractors. The contract also included the construction of the base fire station. The school and the fire station were completed for \$473,170. Construction of the school began on 14 February 1944 and was officially completed on 4 October 1944, although students occupied the building a month earlier, at the beginning of the school year.

The school was built for the children of Air Station personnel, as there were no elementary school facilities in the near vicinity. The old Cedar Point School had been taken down in preparation for construction of NAS Patuxent River, and in any case would have been far too small for the purpose. Having constructed the school at its expense, the Navy gave the building to the St. Mary's County Board of Education, along with partial funding of the school's annual operation. The thoroughly modern, expandable, one-story school building boasted 14 classrooms, a kindergarten area, and a cafeteria. The Air Station's community library, the only library in the county at that date, was housed in one wing of the building. Six hundred pupils were enrolled in the Frank Knox School for the 1944-1945 school year.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Modern Period

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Military

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Military Facility

Known Design Source: Whitman, Edwards and White, Architects

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 4
Section 10 Page 4

Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

1999 *Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland, Historic and Architectural Resources*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (draft final). Prepared for Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, by Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., East Orange, New Jersey.

Maryland Historical Society

1950 *Maryland in World War II: Volume I, Military Participation*. Prepared for the State of Maryland by the War Records Division, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

NAS Patuxent River Public Works Department

various *Map of Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md., Showing Conditions on . . .* [various dates 1941-present]. Plans on file, Public Works Department, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

various *Facility Record Cards and Building Drawings, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md.* Records and drawings on file, Drawing Vault, Public Works Department, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

Naval Historical Center

1945 *Naval Air Station Patuxent River Command History, 1942-45*. Prepared October 1945. On file, Office of Naval Aviation History, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Geological Survey

1987 *Solomons Island, MD. 7.5-Minute Series (Topographic) Quadrangle*. U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries for the Frank Knox School are depicted on the attached figure.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries encompass the area and grounds around the Frank Knox School that possess historical significance and integrity as determined by the Maryland State Highway Administration in conjunction with proposed nearby highway improvements.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 5

Frank Knox School, NAS Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland

The following items apply to all six photographs:

Property Name: Frank Knox School, Naval Air Station Patuxent River

Location: NAS Patuxent River, St. Mary's County, Maryland

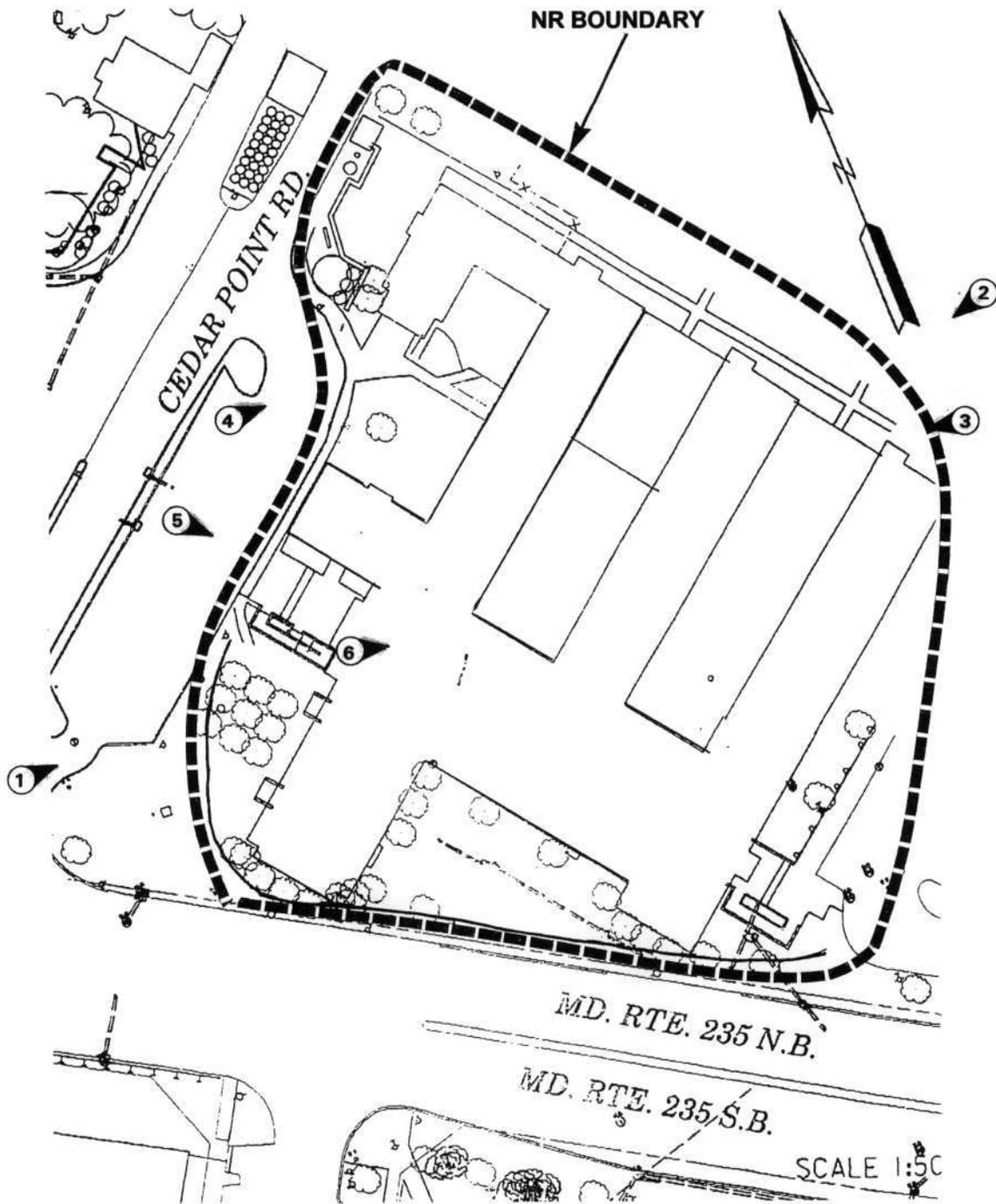
Photographer: Richard M. Casella

Date of Photograph: 1999

Location of Negatives: NAS Patuxent River, Patuxent River, Maryland 20670

Individual Photograph Identifications:

- 1 Frank Knox School, front elevation, looking northeast
- 2 Frank Knox School, rear (east) elevations, looking northwest
- 3 Frank Knox School, north elevations of wings, looking west
- 4 Frank Knox School, front wing, looking northeast
- 5 Frank Knox School, front entrance detail, looking southeast
- 6 Frank Knox School, interior of lobby, looking east

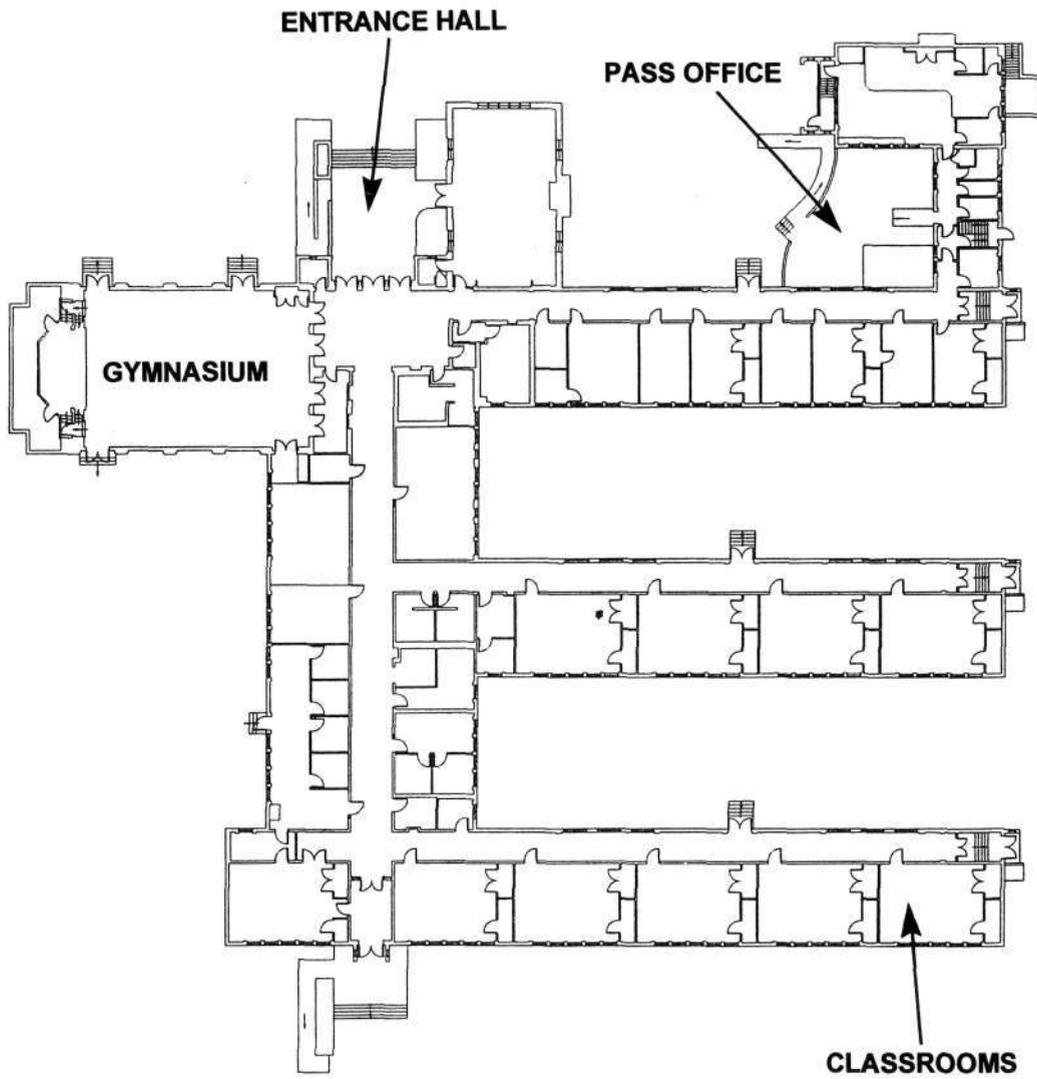


LEGEND
① → ANGLE OF PHOTOGRAPH

Site Plan, National Register Boundary, and Key to Photographs for Frank Knox School

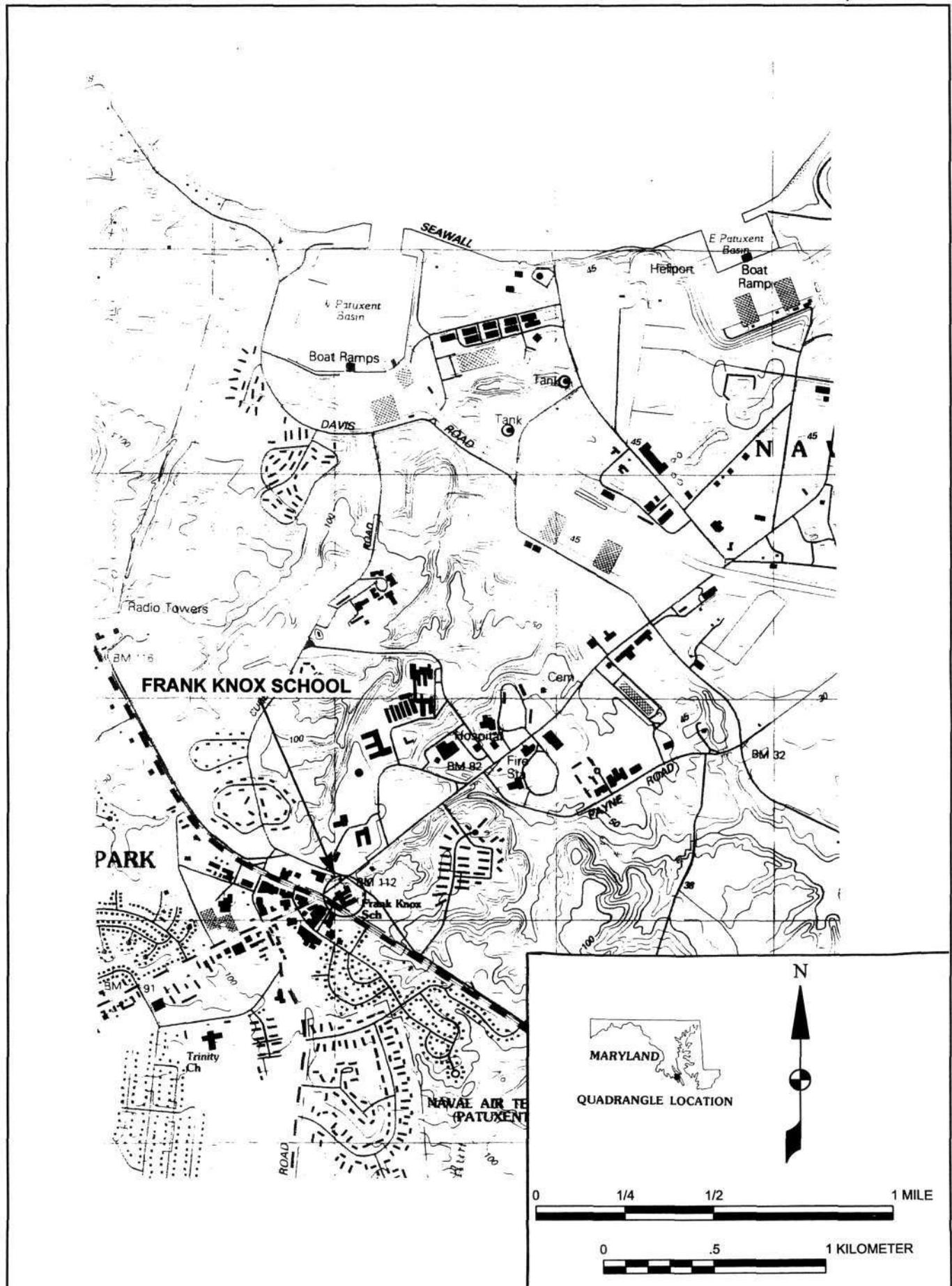
SOURCE: NAS Patuxent River Public Works Dept. Base Maps 1955

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Floor Plan of Frank Knox School

SOURCE: NAS Patuxent River Public Works Dept. 1999



Location Map of Frank Knox School

SOURCE: USGS Quadrangle, Solomons Island, MD 1987



Frank Knox School
Naval Air Station Patuxent River
St. Mary's County, Maryland
Front elevation, Looking Northeast

#1

SM-508



FRANK KNOX SCHOOL SM-508
NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER
ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
Rear (east) elevations, looking Northwest

2



FRANK KNOX SCHOOL

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

NORTH ELEVATIONS OF WINGS, LOOKING WEST

#3



FRANK KNEX SCHOOL

SM-508

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

FRONT WING, LOOKING NORTHEAST

#4



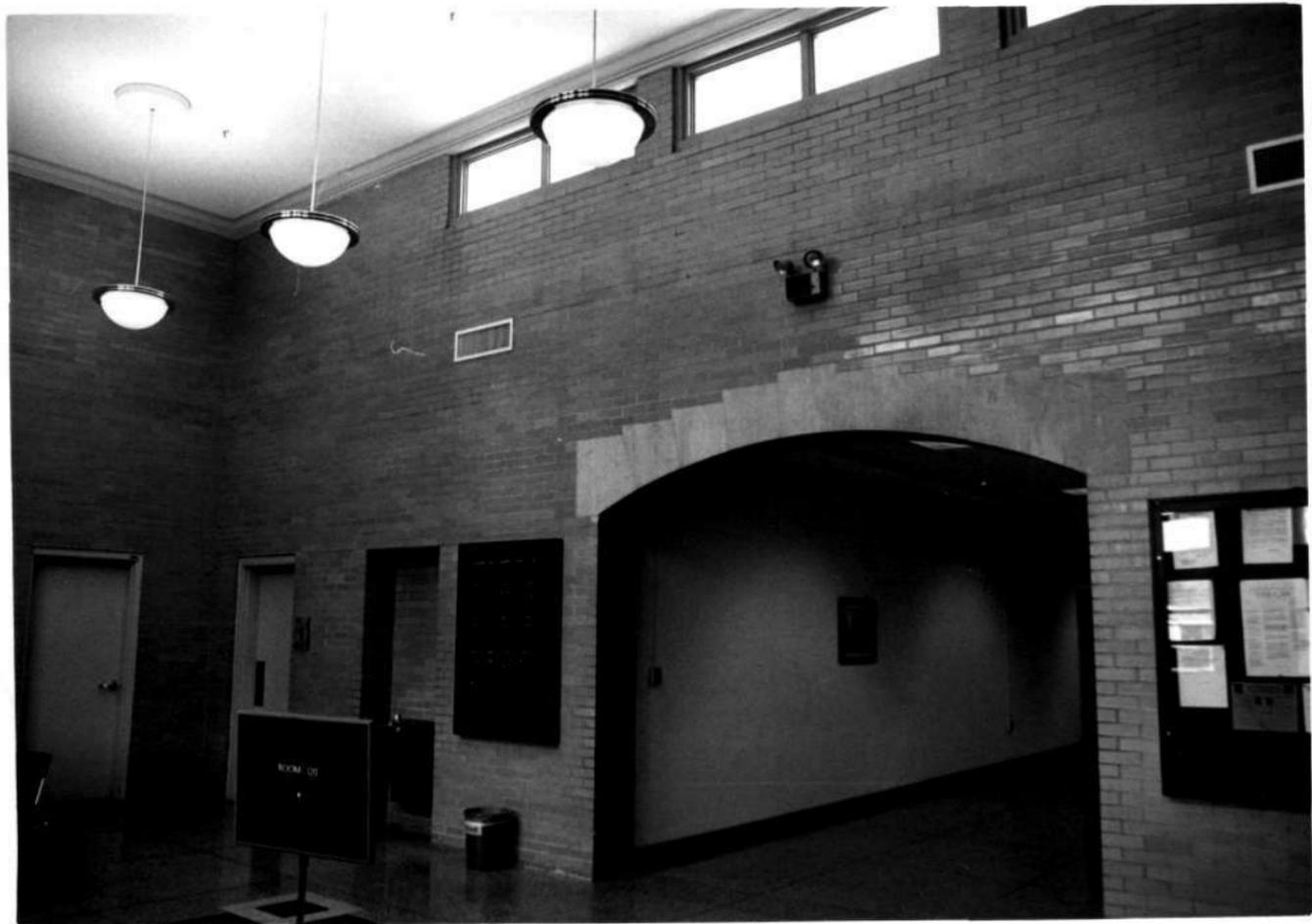
FRANK KNEX SCHOOL SM-508

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

FRONT ENTRANCE DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

5



FRANK KNOX SCHOOL

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTERIOR OF LOBBY, LOOKING EAST

#6