

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Tech. Inventory Number: BA-3249

Address: 938 York Road Historic district: \_\_\_ yes  no

City: Towson Zip Code: 21204 County: Baltimore County

USGS Quadrangle(s): Towson

Property Owner: Baltimore County School District Tax Account ID Number: 09-02571463

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 995 Tax Map Number: 70

Project: Prop. Construction of Carver Center School for Arts and Tech. Agency: Maryland Public School Construction Progra

Agency Prepared By: KCI Technologies, Inc.

Preparer's Name: Gail Walls Date Prepared: 7/17/2009

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 Listed: \_\_\_ yes

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

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

Description

The George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology (Carver Center) (Photo 1), located at 938 York Road in Towson, Baltimore County is a two-story, brick building constructed in three periods: 1940s, 1950s, and 1980s (Conversation with John O'Brien). The school is located on a heavily wooded lot approximately 200 feet west of York Road. A fast-food restaurant and commercial building are located between the school and York Road. The county detention center is located to the south of the school. Recreational facilities including tennis courts and baseball and soccer fields are located immediately north of the school building (Photos 2 and 3). The school's main parking lot is located to the east of the building; a smaller lot is located at the rear (west) of the building. Because of the age of the architecture and commercial development along York Road that dates from the 1970s and 1980s, it appears that the school could have originally fronted York Road with a large, wooded courtyard offering a quieter, suburban atmosphere.

Five, frame modular classrooms are located in the east parking lot (Photo 4). The walls are clad in vinyl siding pierced with ribbon windows barricaded with metal bars. ADA ramps lead to plain, steel doors. English, Literature, and Mathematics classes are held

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MHT Comments:

Jonathan Sayer  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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NA  
Reviewer, National Register Program

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in these classrooms. It appears from the aerial mapping that the buildings have been recently moved to another part of the east parking lot.

The oldest section of the school, located at the south end of the building, was constructed in the 1940s (Photo 5). The two story section has common bond brick façade with three limestone beltcourses. The only ornamentation that remains on this section of the school is on the east (main) elevation. The main elevation has three entryways that retain their original brick surrounds (Photos 6-9), which are comprised of brick stretchers, dentils, and headers that frame the entry way on the top and sides. Iron lamps (Photo 10) are located on each side of the entryways. Stone benches (Photo 11) are located throughout the yard of this section of the school.

The doors have been replaced with modern steel doors including the doors within the three ornamented entryways (Photos 6-9 and Photo 12). The windows are fixed ribbon with horizontal divided lights and an awning window at the bottom (Photos 5 and 9). The metal frame windows have limestone sills and caps.

The school's gymnasium is located at the northeast corner of this section. The gymnasium has column glass block windows on the north elevation with a window on the top and bottom (Photo 13). It appears that the glass blocks have been added at a later time altering the original windows.

Several one-story additions built between the 1950s and 1960s have been constructed off of the north and west elevations of the 1940s section (Photos 13 and 14). These additions have a common bond brick façade and limestone beltcourses. The west (rear) elevation has similar ribbon windows (Photos 15 and 16) and louvered and the same style replacement steel doors found throughout the school (Photos 17 and 18).

The 1950s section is also two stories, with common bond coursework and limestone beltcourses (Photo 19). The walls are pierced similar fixed, ribbon windows with an awning window at the bottom (Photo 20). Small light fixtures are located on the walls as well as a ventilation plate beneath the windows (Photos 21 and 22). The windows are ornamented with a limestone sill and cap and are framed in steel. Replacement doors are of the same design found in the 1940s section (Photo 23).

The main entryway is located on the east elevation of the 1950s section (Photo 1). The original elements of the entryway were replaced in the 1990s when the school re-opened as the Carver Center. The concrete entryway has replaced doors and windows and five, faux, engaged columns; the entryway is reached by concrete steps. The west elevation of the 1950s section has been covered with the 1980s addition. What does remain is a garage located between the 1940s and 1980s section. The area is defined by a bay with ribbon windows on the second story (Photo 24). The historic section of the school is lost at the southwest corner where the 1950s section and the 1980s section meet (Photo 25). Here, the 1980s section obscures the historic section of the school. The south elevation of the 1950s section possesses the similar windows located on the east elevation but in far fewer number. The south elevation is simple in appearance (Photo 26). A porch is located off of the south elevation (Photo 27). Replacement doors of the same style found throughout the school pierce the south elevation (Photo 28).

During the 1980s, a one-story, brick addition was constructed off of the west elevation of the school was constructed (Photos 15 and 29-32). Constructed of square brick, the addition is windowless and has metal doors. This addition houses "The Education Channel."

Background

The area that is now York Road in East Towson extending from North and Weston Towson was settled by freed slaves from the

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Hampton Mansion plantation in Towson. After the Civil War, these families eventually purchased property and built neighborhoods in East Towson (<http://www.baltimorestories.com/maincfm?nid=1&tid=209>. Accessed July 15, 2009). The first African-American school in Towson was conceived in 1867 on Hillen Road out of necessity because of the large African-American population (Brooks 1979:293). Between 1920 and 1950 the county had to provide schools for students who were meeting in churches and other locations. In some instances, students were doubling up on school quarters (Brooks 1979:371).

The area's largest growth was between 1870 and 1920 ("Carver Annex School" Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form). At this time, although the area was small in comparison to today, York Road was a business hub of the area. Post-World War II urban flight created business development in the Towson area and along York Road bringing modern encroachment of restaurants, businesses, and other occupational buildings (J. London "East Towson Historic District MIHP Form").

The first Carver High School was located at Lennox and Jefferson Streets (BA-1075) in the East Towson Historic District and was constructed in 1937 ("Carver Annex School" Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form). The original school at Lennox and Jefferson Streets was built as one of three, segregated high schools in Baltimore County (<http://www.louisdiggs.com>. Accessed July 15, 2009). In the 1940s, a larger school was required, and the Carver High School was relocated to the present building on York Road. In 1954 racial segregation ended in Baltimore County schools and students at Carver High School were integrated into Towson High School ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Towson\\_High\\_School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Towson_High_School). Accessed July 15, 2009). The current school building then became Towsontown Junior High School (<http://www.baltimorestories.com/maincfm?nid=1&tid=209>. Accessed July 15, 2009). The school served as a junior high from the 1950s until the early 1990s. In 1993, the school began operating as the only full magnet school in the county. Approximately 800 students attend the school from all over the county. To attend the school, prospective students are placed in a combined lottery and audition process. The school presently offers ten primes: literary arts, culinary, business, carpentry, cosmetology, dance, design and production, acting, vocal music, and visual arts. The school is the only school in the school district given the distinction of given the person's full name. This was done in May 2009 to remember the school's origins as a segregated school and the fact that George Washington Carver was accomplished in the arts and sciences ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carver\\_Center\\_for\\_Arts\\_and\\_Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carver_Center_for_Arts_and_Technology) accessed June 22, 2009).

National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Evaluation

The George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A. Although the school was constructed as a segregated high school for the African American population in Towson during the 1940s, the school has lost much of its integrity to support its significance. No physical evidence exists to indicate that the building was constructed as a segregated school.

The school does not possess the architectural significance warranted to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C. Although the building does have some architectural features such as the Flemish bond and the more decorative entryways on the 1940s section as well as the limestone beltcourses on both older sections, the building is a simple design void of artistic window features and symmetry and possesses no particular architectural style. The building appears to have been constructed for utilitarian purposes with minimal ornamentation. Stronger, more intact, examples of school architecture exist within Baltimore County such as Catonsville High School (BA-2728) and Old Towson High School (BA-1105). These two examples have distinct architectural styles with a high degree of architectural integrity. Compared to these two schools, the Carver Center is austere in design.

Although the building retains some original architectural features on the 1940s section such as the Flemish bond, the three entryways, and the light fixtures, the school has had many alterations and additions that have compromised the building's integrity. The school does retain its historic location in Towson. However, the setting has been altered with heavy commercial development

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along York Road. It appears that at one time the school faced the road without any intrusions except for natural landscaping; however, the McDonalds and other commercial buildings now block the building from York Road. The school has replacement windows at the main entrance of the 1950s section and over the middle entranceway on the 1940s section. The doors throughout the school have been replaced, and the school's main entryway on the 1950s section has been redesigned with modern materials compromising the building's original workmanship. According to a picture in the building's main office, the original main entrance had attached columns with the school name engraved above. The interior of the school has been altered to allow for studios and other facilities needed for the school's programs (Conversation with John O'Brien). Furthermore, several intrusive additions have been constructed onto the building enveloping the school's original plan, thus compromising the building's original design. Additions were added to allow more students and programs as the school developed throughout the years; however, these alterations have affected the feeling and association of the building as a 1940s/1950s school building. Furthermore, the Carver Center is not the work of a master builder or architect.

Although the school was named after George Washington Carver, an African-American pioneer in science during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the school is not directly associated with him or any known person of local, regional, or national significance (Criterion B). Finally, the school was not evaluated for its significance under Criterion D.

#### Bibliography

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

Carver Annex School. Contributing Resource. Maryland Historic Trust. Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form. June 29, 1993.

"Carver Center for Arts and Technology" [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carver\\_Center/for\\_Arts\\_and\\_Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carver_Center/for_Arts_and_Technology). Accessed June 22, 2009.

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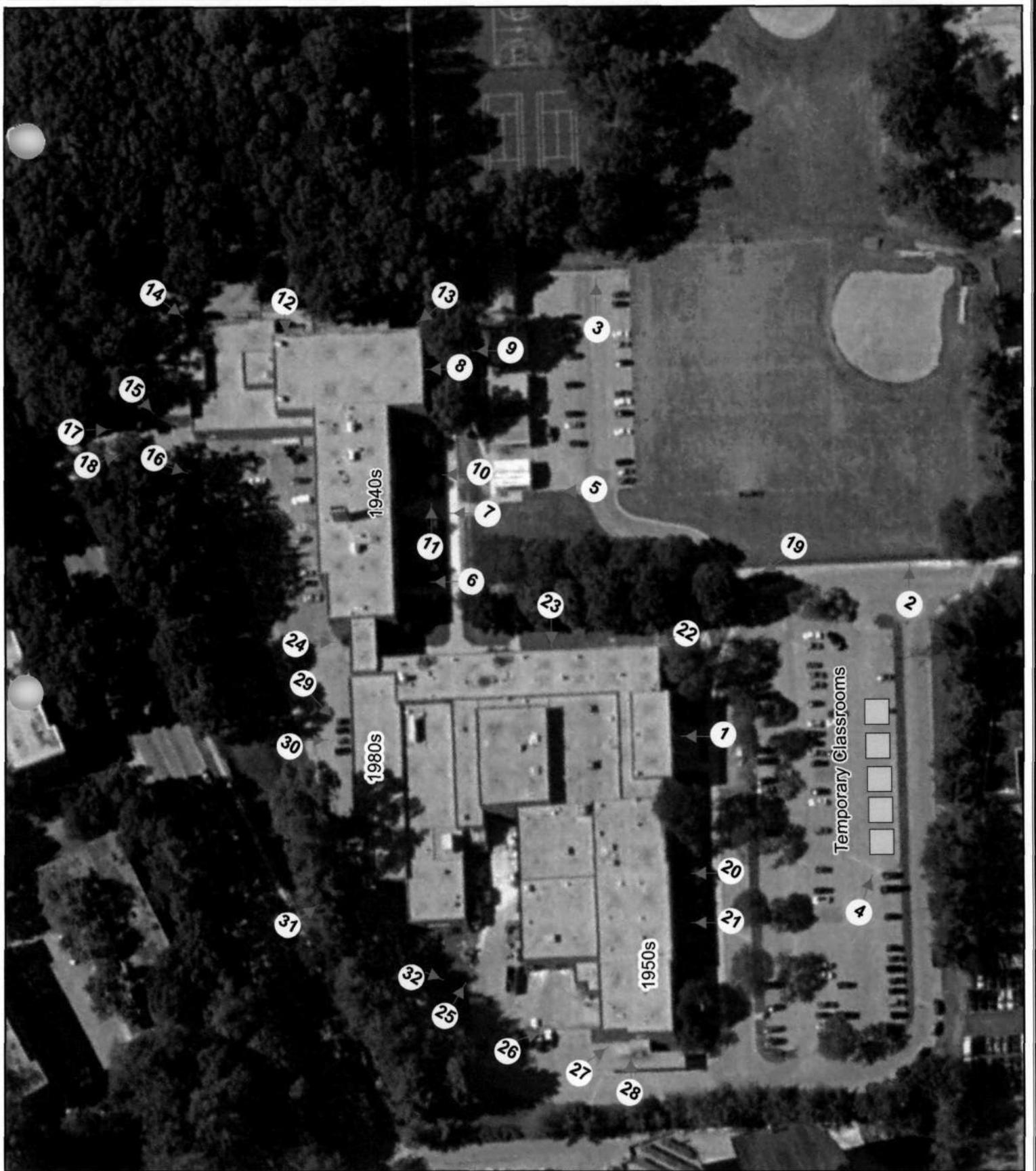
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Date



BA-3249

Site Map of George Washington Carver School for Arts and Technology with Photo Locations

Source: Towson, MD  
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle



0 85 170 feet

Photo Direction 1 →



BA-3249

Proposed Construction of Carver Center School for Arts and Technology  
Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland

Source: Towson, MD  
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle





GEORGETOWN

Carver Center for Arts & Technology

GEORGETOWN  
1962

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Main entryway of 1950s section

1/32



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Baseball and soccer fields located north of  
main building

2/32



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Tennis courts located north of school building

3/32



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Modular classrooms located east of main  
building

4/32



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East elevation of 1940s section

5/32



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Close-up of door on south side of east elevation  
of 1940s section

6/32



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Close-up of center door on east elevation

7/32



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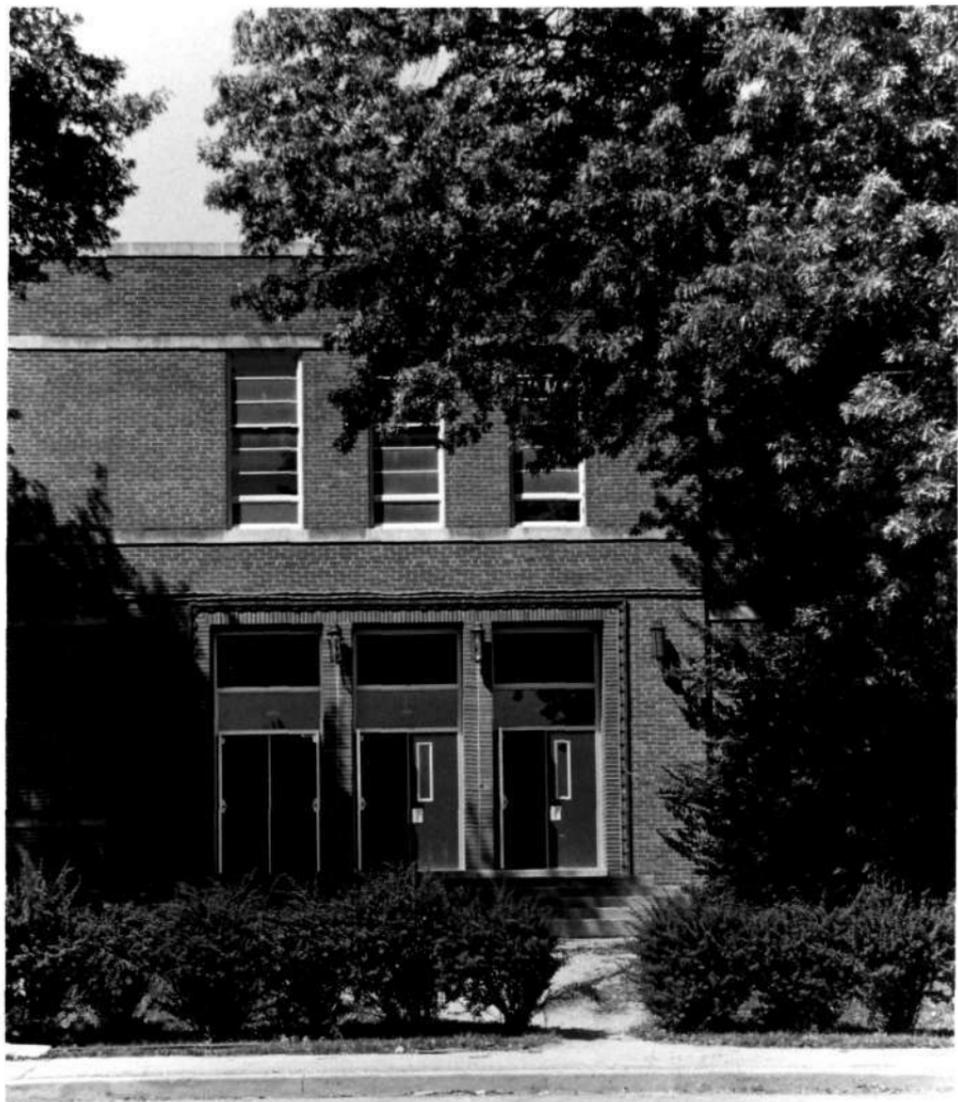
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Entry way into gym on north side of east elevation

8/32



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Entryway into gym illustrating projection from  
building

9/32



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Close-up of door on south side of east elevation  
of 1940s section

10/32



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Close-up of bench outside center door on east elevation

11/32



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Detail of replacement doors on north elevation  
of 1940s section

12/32



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North elevation of 1940s section

13/32



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Addition on northwest corner of 1940s addition

14/32



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West elevation facing southeast

15/32



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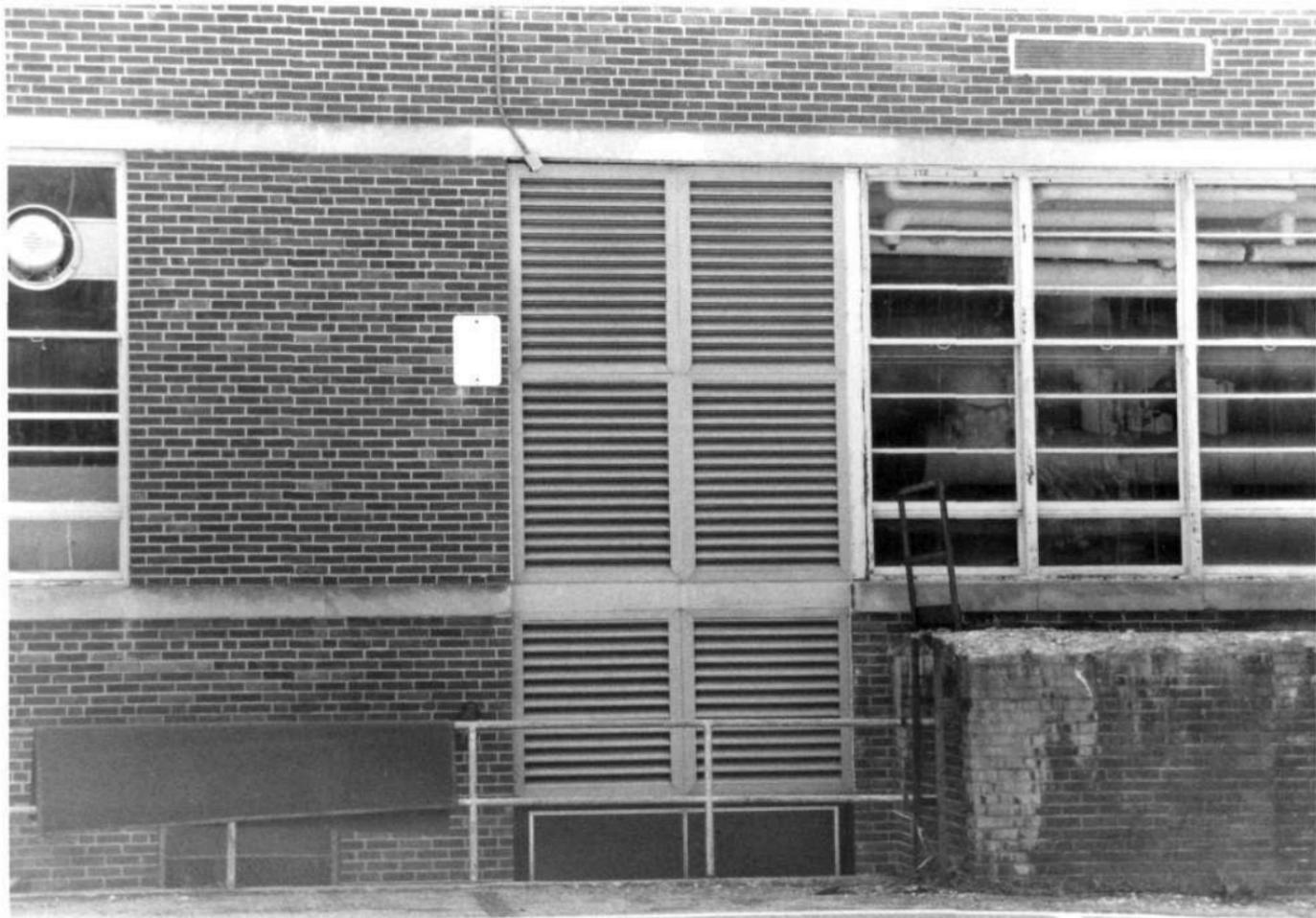
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North side of west elevation

16/32



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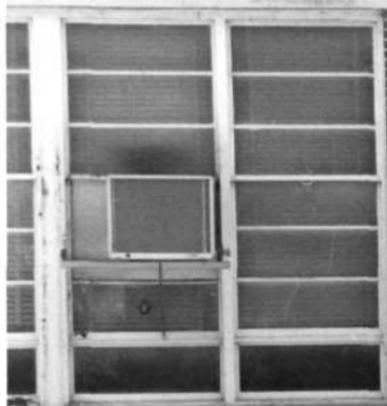
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Louvered doors on west elevation

17/32



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George Washington  
Baltimore County,

Carver Center for Arts and Technology  
Maryland

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Example of replacement doors on west elevation

18/32



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East elevation of 1950s section

19/32



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Close-up of ribbon window detail on 1950s section  
20/32



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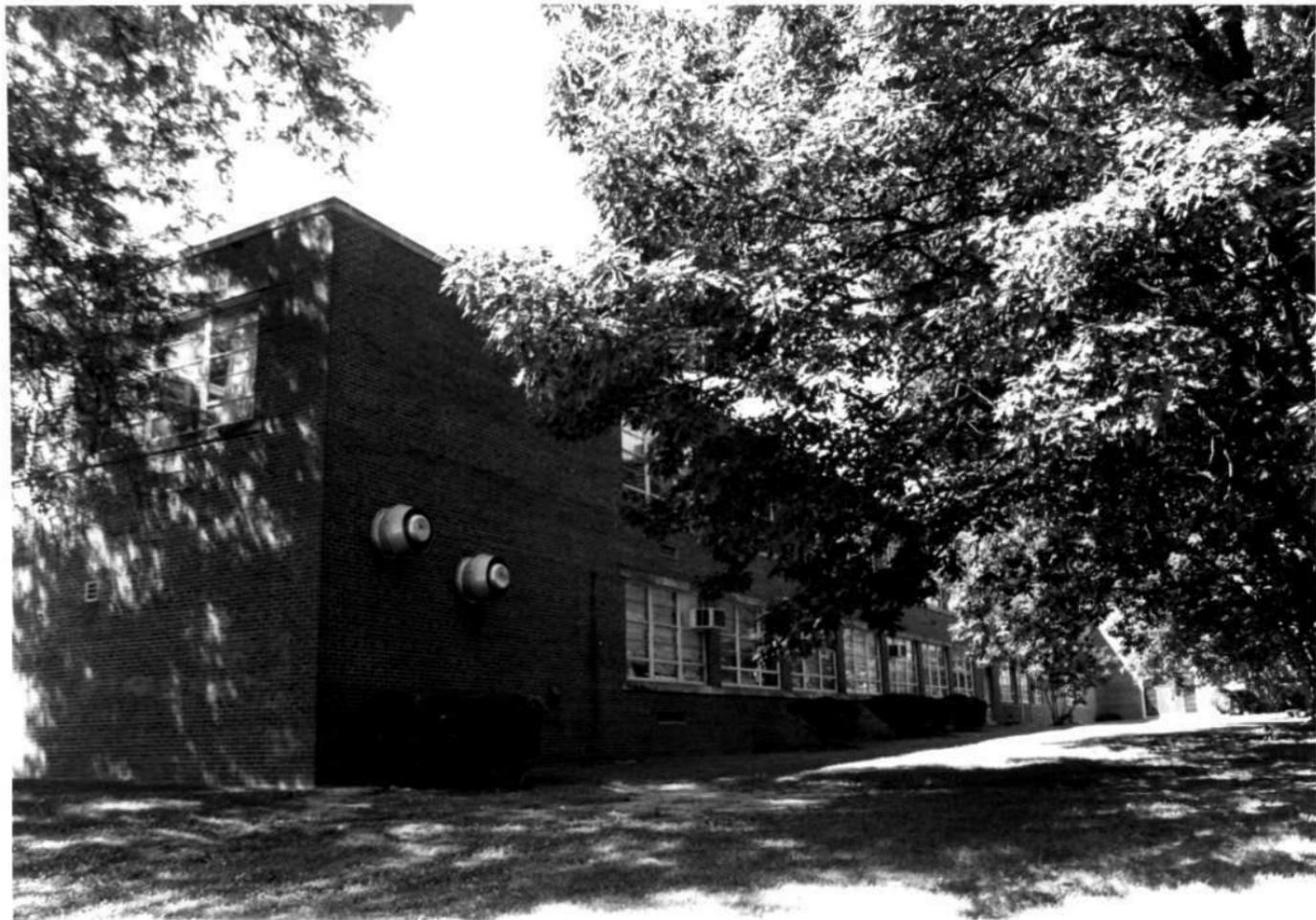
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Close-up of light fixture on east elevation of

1950s section

21/32



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North elevation of 1950s section

22/32



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Doorway on north elevation of 1950s section

23/32



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Recess on west side

24/32



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West and South elevations of 1950s section where  
it joins 1980s addition

25/32



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1950s South elevation

2/10/32



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Porch on south elevation

27/32



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Replacement doors on south elevation of 1950s  
addition

28/32



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1980s addition - west elevation

29/32

A black and white photograph of a building entrance. The building has a dark brick wall. A dark canopy covers the entrance area, with the address "938 A" printed in white on its front edge. Below the canopy is a set of double doors. A concrete platform with a metal railing surrounds the doors. To the right of the platform, a set of stairs leads up to the entrance. To the left of the platform, there is a tall, narrow vertical structure, possibly a chimney or vent pipe, and a small utility box. A small rectangular vent is visible on the brick wall above the canopy. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the address number being the most prominent feature.

938 A

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'The Education Channel' facing east

30/32



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Southwest elevation of 1980s addition

31/32



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1980s South elevation

32/32