CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2916
Catonsville Elementary School
615 Frederick Road
Catonsville, Baltimore County
ca. 1909
Public

The Catonsville Elementary School, originally known as the Catonsville High School, was constructed in 1909 and dedicated on April 22, 1910. Constructed at 615 Frederick Road, the imposing building exhibits elements of the Classical Revival, an architectural style that was popular during this period. The Catonsville Elementary School was erected in response to Governor Edwin Warfield's criticism of the public school system in Catonsville during the first decade of the 20th century. Originally, the school housed all of the elementary and secondary grades, however, by 1925, a larger facility was constructed to house the high school and the building on Frederick Road was officially designated as the Catonsville Elementary School. It was enlarged at the rear in 1970 by the construction of a gymnasium addition designed by the architectural firm of Ferdinand P. Kelley and Associates.

The much enlarged Classical Revival style school, originally a high school, stands two stories high, with a slightly raised basement. The main block of the building is rectangular in plan, approximately five bays wide and three bays deep. A one- and two-story addition was built onto the rear of the original ell in 1971, housing a gymnasium and additional classrooms. The school rests upon a poured concrete foundation and features brick construction. The original portion of the school is laid in Flemish bond with a limestone watertable and stringcourse, while the addition features stretcher bond. Single windows define interior stairwells, while grouped windows define classrooms. The windows are arranged in groups of three, four, five, and six, and embellished by stone sills and molded stone lintels. The roof is flat, and obscured from view by a brick parapet. Flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions ornament the frieze, and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions defines the top of the frieze.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2916

1. Name of Property

historic	Catonsville High School; Catonsville Elementary School (preferred)
other	

2. Location

street and number	615 Frederick Road	__	not for publication
city, town	Baltimore, Maryland	__	vicinity
county	Baltimore		

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

name	Board of Education of Baltimore County				
street and number	940 York Road			telephone	410-887-6301
city, town	Towson	state	Maryland	zip code	21204

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	m: 101, p: 377
city, town	Towson,	liber 342	folio 526

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
__ district
X building(s)
__ structure
__ site
__ object

Ownership
X public
__ private
__ both

Current Function
__ agriculture
__ commerce/trade
__ defense
__ domestic
X education
__ funerary
__ government
__ health care
__ industry
__ landscape
__ recreation/culture
__ religion
__ social
__ transportation
__ work in progress
__ unknown
__ vacant/not in use
__ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2916

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
X good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

The Catonsville Elementary School at 615 Frederick Road was constructed in 1909 in the Classical Revival style. The much enlarged school, originally a high school, stands two stories high, with a slightly raised basement. The main block of the building is rectangular in plan, approximately five bays wide, and three bays deep. A one- and two-story addition was built onto the rear of the original ell in 1971, housing a gymnasium and additional classrooms. The school rests upon a poured concrete foundation and features brick construction. The original portion of the school is laid in Flemish bond, while the addition features stretcher bond. Single windows define interior stairwells, while grouped windows define classrooms. The windows are arranged in groups of three, four, five, and six, and embellished by stone sills and molded stone lintels. The roof is flat, and obscured from view by a brick parapet. Encircling the building, a molded limestone watertable divides the basement from the first story, and acts as a continuous lintel for the basement openings. Also encircling the building, a limestone stringcourse acts as a continuous lintel for the second story windows. Flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions ornament the frieze, and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions defines the top of the frieze.

The school is located on the south side of Frederick Road, and is accessed by a U-shaped paved drive with ornamental trees at the front. A long driveway leads to a paved parking lot on the east side of the building, and a playground and playing fields are to the south.

EXTERIOR

The façade faces Frederick Road to the north, and features symmetrical five-part massing with projecting end bays. The building's horizontal massing is contradicted by the verticality of the slightly projecting main entry at the center and the stylized medallion symmetrically placed above in the parapet. Thirteen symmetrically placed 2/2 vinyl replacement windows, two of which have been filled with vents, mark the basement level. A single-leaf metal flush door provides basement access at the western end of the building. The first story is dominated by the central entry. Accessed by a concrete stair, the slightly projecting entry bay is constructed of brick with limestone detailing. The bay rises to the sills of the second story openings. It is marked by buttress-like embattlements at the sides, an ogee molded stringcourse, and a crenellated parapet holding the sign, "CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL." The wide entry opening is framed by limestone quoins and a Tudor-arched limestone lintel. Three narrow vertical lights mark the double-leaf flush replacement doors. A 1940 photo indicates that the original entry featured two double-leaf wood doors, each with a single large rectangular panel. Four-light sidelights and a five-light fixed transom flank the doors. The symmetry of the building begins with elongated groups of windows of the first story united by continuous limestone sills and lintels. Moving outward from the main entry bay are groups of three and five window openings, each holding 2/2 vinyl replacement sash. Similarly, the second story maintains the symmetry with a centrally placed 2/2 replacement window over the entry. This opening is flanked on either side by groups of four and five 2/2 replacement windows. The brick parapet trimming the roof of the building is accented on the façade by a round

limestone medallion surrounded by festoons, torches, a scrolled keystone, and triangular shields. At the parapet in the end bays of the façade are rectangular panels of limestone flanking a round medallion.

The west elevation is similarly finished with groups of window openings, limestone accented frieze, and ogee-capped limestone stringcourses. This elevation includes the main block of the building, the original ell, and the 1971 rear addition. The slope of the site presents the elevation as three stories in height, rather than two-stories on a raised basement. The center bay of the main block projects. Within the main block, the openings are groups from north to south: four, five, and five. The fenestration pattern of the rear ell from north to south: one, six, six, and one. Twenty-three 2/2 vinyl replacement windows and five 1/1 vinyl replacement windows pierce the basement level. A wide single entry is located in the southernmost bay of the ell. A two-course rowlock brick lintel with modest limestone keystone marks the segmentally arched opening. Recessed behind a opening, the double-leaf flush metal replacement door features a one-light transom and provides access to an interior stairwell. The first and second stories of the west elevation continue the symmetrically fenestration pattern with 2/2 replacement windows, united in groups by continuous limestone sills and lintels. The northernmost bay of each story, however, is devoid of openings. The flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions trim the parapet.

A flat roof one-story addition extending the full width of the south elevation of the rear ell unites the building with the 1971 addition. Five 1/1 windows pierce the west elevation of the one-story hyphen. The 1971 gymnasium addition has no openings on the west elevation. Similarly, the south elevation of the addition has no window openings. Two symmetrically placed double-leaf flush metal doors pierce it. Following the limestone detailing of the main block, the addition has a wide stone frieze set above a soldier-coursed bed molding. Two rectangular limestone panels extend from the top of the entry openings to the frieze. The main block contains a centrally placed 1/1 vinyl window on the first story and a symmetrical 1/1 vinyl window on the second story. The flat diamond-shaped limestone medallions and a limestone cornice embellished by limestone modillions trim the parapet.

The east elevation is comprised of the main block, the rear ell, and the 1971 addition. Continuing the ornamentation presented on the façade, the east elevation of the main block has 2/2 window openings grouped in a pattern of six and five on all three of the stories. The northernmost bay is devoid of openings on all three stories. A one bay wide stair tower, set back from the wall plane of the main block, has a single 2/2 window in the second story. The east elevation of the ell has three groups of six 2/2 window openings on each story. The one-story addition, wrapping around the east elevation of the 1971 addition, has four single entries and double entry, each holding flush metal doors. The space between the door lintels and the frieze is filled with limestone. The two-story gymnasium addition has no openings.

INTERIOR

The interior plan of the school consists of a central corridor flanked on both sides by offices, classrooms, a cafeteria, and bathrooms. Four stairwells provide access to the upper floors – two are located at either end of the corridor that runs laterally across the main block; one is at the end of the south wing, and one was added onto the southeast corner of the main block. These dogleg stairs feature solid metal balustrades with round metal rails and squared metal newel posts with pyramidal caps. The various rooms flanking the corridors retain most of their original wood baseboards, window casings, and door casings. The baseboards are ten inches high with cavetto caps, and the molded window casings are five-and-a-half inches wide. The original smooth plaster walls remain throughout the building. It appears that a major effort was made to modernize the school during the 1950s or 1960s, with the installation of vinyl floor tile and wood slab doors. Terrazzo was also applied to the floor surfaces of the stairwells. Another effort was made in 1970 and 1971, when the rear addition was built. According to blueprints, lockers were installed in the hallways in 1971. Some of the doors have metal surrounds, and some of the baseboards have been replaced with vinyl kick plates. Composition-board ceiling tiles also appear to have been installed during the 1970s. The cloakrooms located in each classroom were also removed at around the same time. Most of the doors have brass knobs and plates, and the classrooms have hanging fluorescent lights.

The following inventory of rooms is based upon blueprints made for alterations and additions in 1970. The basement, or ground floor, features the cafeteria, kitchen, faculty dining room, dish washing room, boiler room, two mechanical rooms, two kindergarten rooms, five storage rooms, two restrooms, an office, and four classrooms. The ground floor of the 1971 rear addition includes the gymnasium, two physical education offices, two storage rooms, two restrooms, and two music rooms. The first floor features an auditorium, library, six classrooms, a health suite, two conference rooms, a guidance room, a janitor room, an audio-visual room, two work rooms, and three offices. According to the current custodian, the auditorium originally had tin ceilings. The auditorium currently has a drop ceiling, and decorative wood wall paneling. The second floor features eight classrooms, two art rooms, two special education rooms, two restrooms, and two storage rooms.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2916

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	X education	__ industry	__ philosophy
__ 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
X 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	__recreation	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation	__ settlement	__ military	__ other:

Significance dates	1909-1970	**Architect**	Ferdinand P. Kelly and Associates (7/70)
Specific dates	1909, 1925, 1970	**Builder**	Lamprecht Consultants; Miles & Davidson, Inc. (7/70)

Evaluation for:

__..__ National Register __Maryland Register __X__ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Catonsville Elementary School, originally the Catonsville High School, was constructed in 1909 and dedicated on April 22, 1910. Constructed along Frederick Road, the imposing building exhibits elements of the Classical Revival, an architectural style that was popular during this period. The Catonsville Elementary School was erected in response to Governor Edwin Warfield's criticism of the public school system in Catonsville during the first decade of the 20th century. Originally, the high school housed all of the elementary and secondary grades, however, by 1925, a larger facility was constructed to house the high school and the building on Frederick Road was officially designated as the Catonsville Elementary School. It was enlarged at the rear in 1970 by the construction of a gymnasium addition designed by the architectural firm of Ferdinand P. Kelley and Associates.

History of the Catonsville Elementary School

During the early years of the 20th century, Catonsville was emerging into a growing suburb of Baltimore. New structures erected along Frederick Road were symbolic of the changing environment. One such building was the Catonsville High School. Governor Edwin Warfield had criticized the citizens of Catonsville for their lack of cooperation in securing a site for a new school. Following this rebuke, a committee of local citizens focused their attention on purchasing a site for the new building. The committee included prominent local citizen Victor G. Bloede, the president of the First National Bank of Catonsville and the developer of Eden Terrace. Difficulties arose in purchasing a site due to the protest of local residents and properties tied up in private interests. Other opposition lay in the proposed use of the original high school. Located on Winter's Lane, it was proposed that the old high school (1873/1899) be used by the African-American population in Catonsville. Due to racial inequality at the time, many members of the Caucasian citizenry rejected this because they felt that the school would bring the African-American children too close to the heart of town, thus decreasing property values. As a result, the old high school was sold to St. Mark's and used as a parochial school, while the African-American students continued to attend the school at the intersection of Winter's Lane and Edmondson Avenue.

Success in finding a site came when the committee secured a three-acre lot along Frederick Road in the heart of Catonsville. Purchased from William H. Adams, the property originally belonged to Remus Adams, an

African-American blacksmith, whose house and shop were located on the parcel of land. The tract was purchased in 1907 by Victor G. Bloede, Arthur C. Monkell, G. Herbert Rice, Lewis W. Freund, and Frederick Leutz before being conveyed in 1909 to the Board of County School Commissioners of Baltimore County. Although officially dedicated in April 1910, the new school building was in use by February of the same year. The school's literary journal, *Blue and Gold*, wrote in an editorial, "We have begun work in our new school, where better facilities are offered in every branch of educational pursuits. With these advantages let us endeavor to make the last half better than the first. Let this first year of work in our new building be a success. This building shall then stand in the eyes of the people of Catonsville, as a monument to their civic pride, and as an honor to those energetic and active citizens."[1] As of 1914, the Catonsville High School had eight teachers: Rene Edward de Russy, Hannah Scott, Helen Coulter, Mary Ebaugh, Ada Colburn, Edith Tracey, Reba Neepier, and Clarence Edward Earle. Originally, the high school housed all of the elementary and secondary grades, however, by 1925, the school attendance had outgrown the new facility. At this time, a larger facility was constructed to house the high school and the building on Frederick Road was officially designated as the Catonsville Elementary School. The new high school was erected in 1926 along Bloomsbury Avenue.

Evidence of overcrowding was seen as early as 1919, when the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate the presence of three addition classroom buildings to the rear of the main school building. Each classroom was one story in height with a rectangular footprint. By 1925, two more classroom buildings had been constructed, bringing the total to five. Following the designation of the building as the Catonsville Elementary School, the five additional classroom buildings were removed, to be replaced by a large three-story addition on the southwest corner of the school. According to the Sanborn maps, this change occurred between 1925 and 1930.

The next major change occurred in the 1970s when Ferdinand P. Kelley and Associates designed interior alterations and an addition. According to the architectural drawings, dated July 15, 1970, the structural engineer for the project was Lamprecht Consultants and the mechanical engineer was Miles and Davidson, Inc. On the rear of the school, a gymnasium was added and interior alterations included the removal of coat closets, the installation of lockers, and the enlargement of classrooms.

Despite alterations in the 1920s and 1970s, the building retains its strong ties to the Classical Revival style of architecture. As the Victorian era came to a close, American culture, and its architecture, rejected the earlier Picturesque movement. Inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, there was an overwhelming response to classically inspired designs. Typically, Classical Revival buildings feature symmetrical facades with centered entries and rhythmic rows of windows. Additionally, they often mimicked the columns of the classical orders, being constructed with a base, shaft, and capital. These elements are clearly

[1] Edward Orser and Joseph Arnold, *Catonsville 1880 to 1940 from Village to Suburb*, (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 1989), p. 108.

defined in the Catonsville Elementary School, with the water table and stringcourse visually dividing the building into three sections, representing the base, shaft and capital of the Classical Revival style.

Chain of Title:

August 29, 1907:	William H. and Mary J. Adams to Victor G. Bloede, Arthur C. Monkell, G. Herbert Rice, Lewis W. Freund, and Frederick Leutz Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 319 Folio 218
January 2, 1909:	Vicotr G. and Elise S. Bloede, Arthur C. and Virginia Monkell, G. Herbert and Agnes Gill Rice, Lewis W. and Laura J. Freund, and Frederick and Paula Leutz to Board of County School Commissioners of Baltimore County Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 342 Folio 526

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Developmental Period(s):	Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930) Modern Period (1930-Present)
Historic Period Theme(s):	Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	EDUCATION/School
Known Design Source:	Ferdinand P. Kelly and Associates (7/15/70)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2916

Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture.* New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Orser , Edward and Joseph Arnold. *Catonsville 1880 to 1940 From Village to Suburb.* Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 1989.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Catonsville, Maryland: 1910, 1919, 1925, 1930 and 1958.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area	2.78 Acres	
Acreage surveyed	2.78 Acres	
Quadrangle name	Baltimore West, MD	Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This building, known as the Catonsville Elementary School, is located at 615 Frederick Road as noted on Tax Map 101, Parcel 377. It has historically beeen associated with the site since its construction in 1909.

11. Form Prepared by

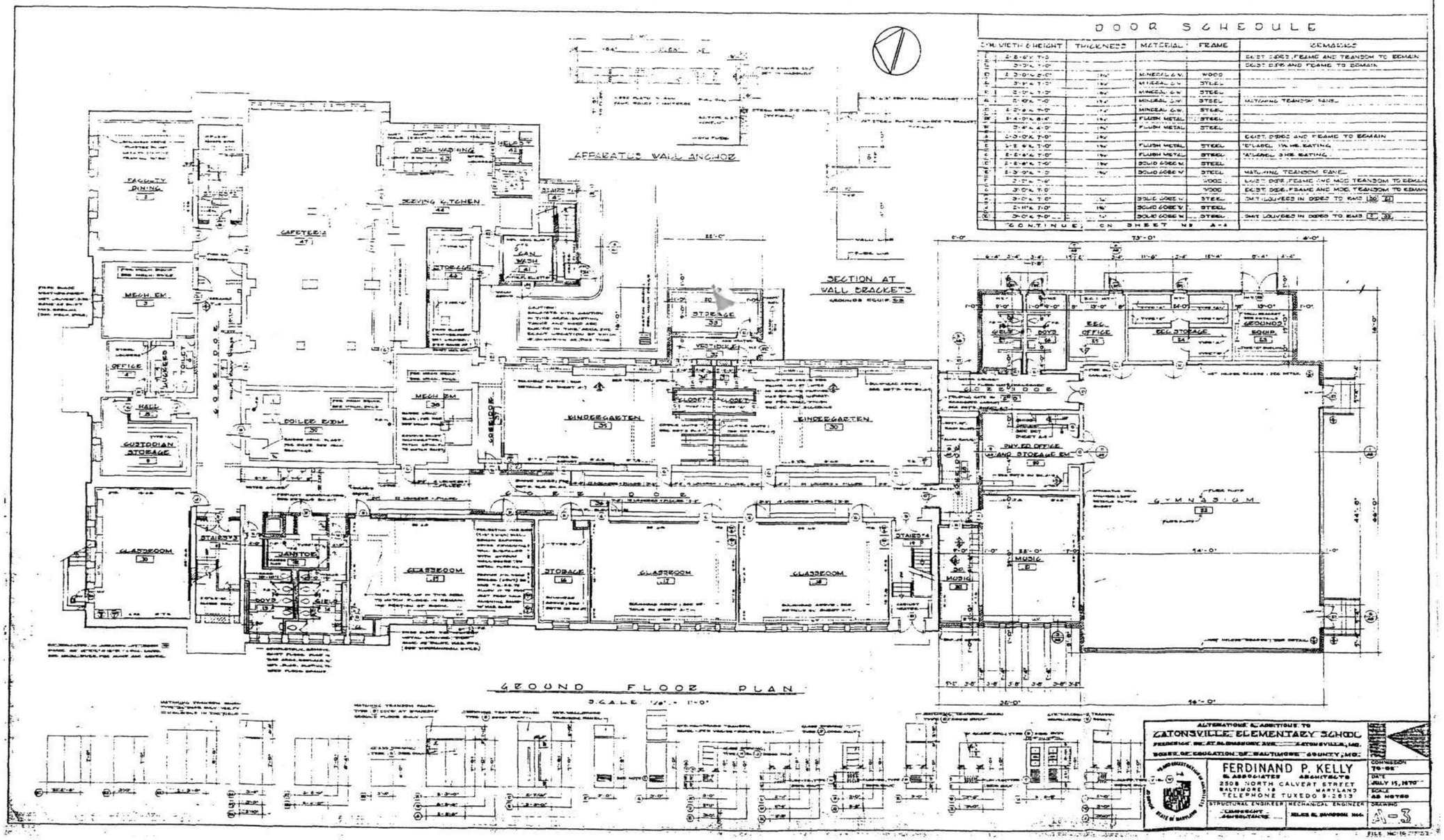
name/title	Robin J. Weidlich, Laura Trieschmann, and Christopher V. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.
street & number	5420 Western Avenue
city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Pllace
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

BA-2916



DOOR SCHEDULE

	NO.	WIDTH & HEIGHT	THICKNESS	MATERIAL	FRAME	REMARKS
		2'-6" x 7'-0"				EXIST. DOOR, FRAME AND TRANSOM TO REMAIN
		3'-0" x 7'-0"				EXIST. DOR AND FRAME TO REMAIN
	2	3'-0" x 6'-0"	1¾"	MINERAL C.W.	WOOD	
		3'-0" x 7'-0"	1¾"	MINERAL C.W.	STEEL	
		3'-0" x 7'-0"	1¾"	MINERAL C.W.	STEEL	
		3'-0" x 7'-0"	1¾"	MINERAL C.W.	STEEL	MATCHING TRANSOM PANEL
		3'-0" x 7'-0"	1¾"	MINERAL C.W.	STEEL	
		3'-4" x 6'-4"	1¾"	FLUSH METAL	STEEL	
		3'-4" x 4'-0"	1¾"	FLUSH METAL	STEEL	
		2'-3" x 7'-0"	1¾"			EXIST. DOOR AND FRAME TO REMAIN
		3'-6" x 7'-0"	1¾"	FLUSH METAL	STEEL	ENLARGE. IN THE EATING
		3'-6" x 7'-0"	1¾"	FLUSH METAL	STEEL	ENLARGE. IN THE EATING
		2'-6" x 7'-0"	1¾"	SOLID CORE W.	STEEL	
		2'-3" x 7'-0"	1¾"	SOLID CORE W.	STEEL	MATCHING TRANSOM PANEL
		2'-0" x 7'-0"			WOOD	EXIST. DOR, FRAME AND MOD. TRANSOM TO REMAIN
		3'-0" x 7'-0"			WOOD	EXIST. DOR, FRAME AND MOD. TRANSOM TO REMAIN
		3'-0" x 7'-0"	1¾"	SOLID CORE W.	STEEL	INST. LOUVERS IN DOOR TO EQUIP. 26 27
		3'-0" x 7'-0"	1¾"	SOLID CORE W.	STEEL	
		3'-0" x 7'-0"	1¾"	SOLID CORE W.	STEEL	INST. LOUVERS IN DOOR TO EQUIP. 1 33

CONTINUED ON SHEET NO. A-4

ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS TO
ELKTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FRONTING ON ST. MARY'S AVE. ELKTON, MD.
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

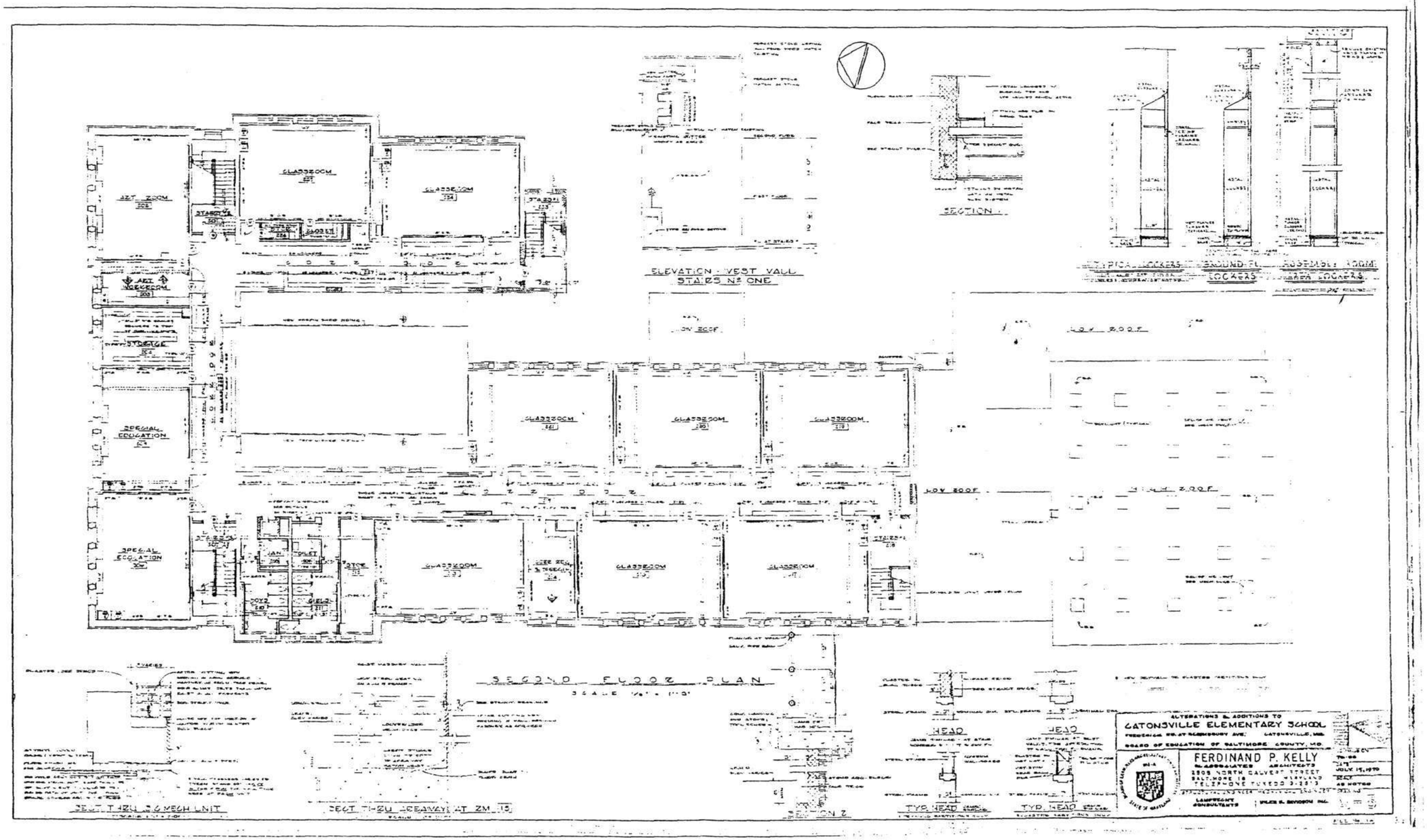
FERDINAND P. KELLY
& ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS
2508 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE 18 MARYLAND
TELEPHONE TUXEDO 9-2813

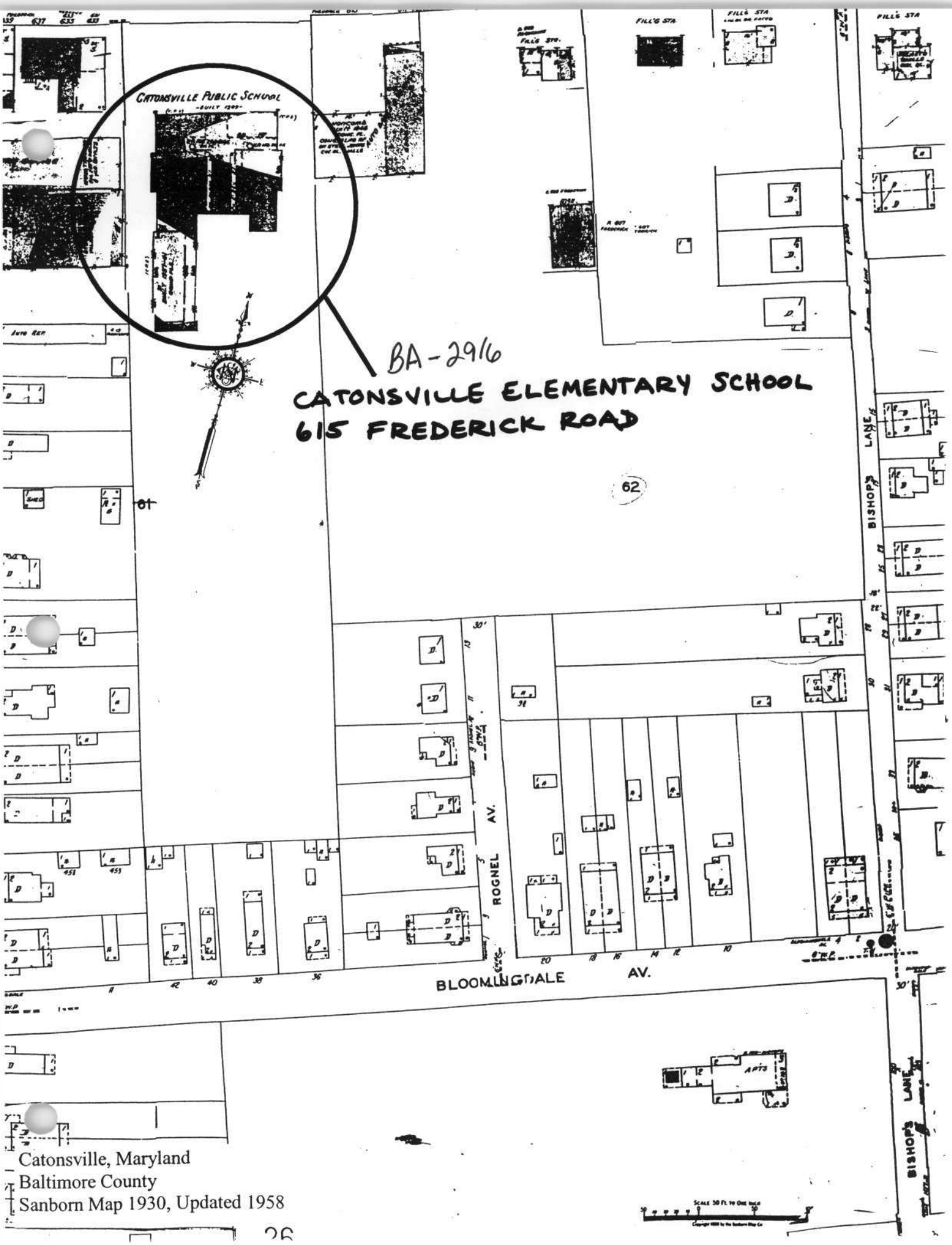
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: CAMPBELLS ASSOCIATES
MECHANICAL ENGINEER: MILES & SHOOSON, INC.

COMMISSION 75-55
DATE JULY 15, 1970
SCALE AS NOTED
DRAWING A-3

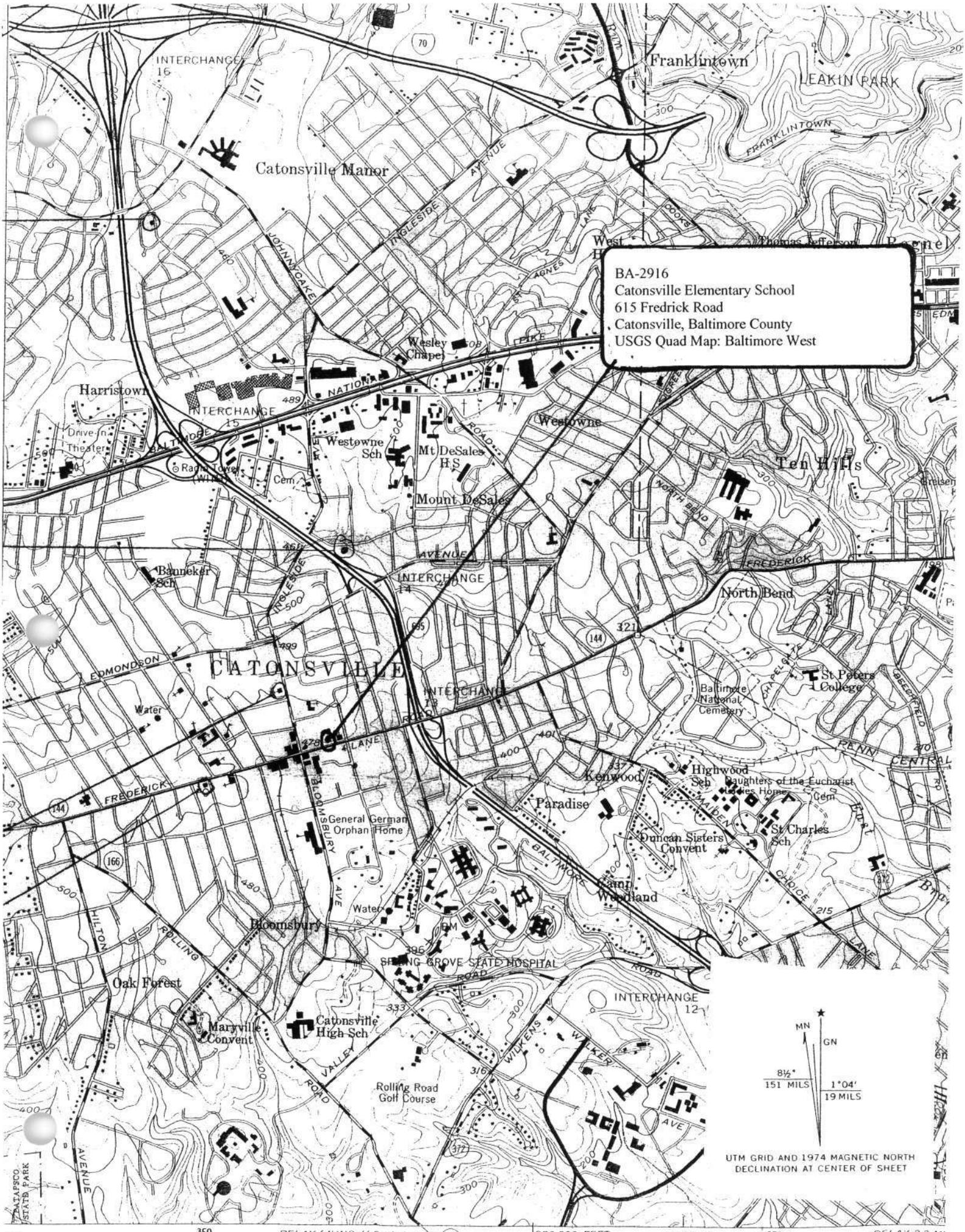
FILE NO. 16-77-52

BA-2916


ELEVATION - WEST WALL
STAIRS No ONE
SECTION 1
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
ART ROOM
ART WORKROOM
SPECIAL EDUCATION
CLASSROOM
STAIRS
JAN
TOILET
STORE
LOCKERS
HOV ROOF
HEAD
TYP. HEAD
SECTION 2
ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS TO
CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.
FERDINAND P. KELLY
& ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS
2808 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE 18 MARYLAND
JULY 15, 1970
AS NOTED



Catonsville, Maryland
Baltimore County
Sanborn Map 1930, Updated 1958



Mapped by the Army Map Service

WAY
OT-
ER
CATONSVILLE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BA 2916
CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
615 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
TRACERIES
3/00
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH
1 OF 6

BA 2916
Catonsville Elementary School
615 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1/00
Maryland SHPO
east elevation LOOKING WEST
2 OF 6

BA 2916
Catonsville Elementary School
615 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1/00
Maryland SHPO
south elevation LOOKING NORTH
3 OF 6

BA 2916
Catonsville Elementary School
615 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1/00
Maryland SHPO
west elevation LOOKING NORTH
4 OF 6

EXIT

BA 2916
CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
615 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
TRACERIES
3/00
MARYLAND SHPO
FIRST FLOOR, HALL, LOOKING EAST
5 OF 6

left
right
The Big Block of Chemistry
Short Vowels
Long Vowels
The Beginning Supply List

BA 2916
CATONSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
615 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
TRACERIES
3/00
MARYLAND SHPO
FIRST FLOOR, CLASSROOM 135, LOOKING SOUTHWEST
6 OF 6