

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 13 1979  
DATE ENTERED SEP 25 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

PUBLIC SCHOOL #99 (preferred); <sup>9</sup>The (Columbus School)

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Northeast corner of East North Avenue and North Washington Street

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Seventh

STATE

Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY

Baltimore Ctiy

CODE  
510

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: community

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET & NUMBER

Room 250, City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

--- VICINITY OF

STATE  
Maryland 21202

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office, Room 601

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE  
Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE

1978

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE  
Maryland 21202

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Columbus School, #99, is a Romanesque styled structure, the chief features of which are a central square tower with pyramidal roof and a flanking pair of cylindrical corner towers with cornical roofs. It is located in a neighborhood just south of Clifton Park, a primarily residential area of nineteenth and twentieth century rowhouses in good condition. The structure is currently used as the South Clifton Park Community Center.

The two-story, eleven bay wide building is defined by the corner towers and large three-story central tower. Large wooden double doors with side wooden panels on the tower facade surmount seven stone steps and brick cheek walls with stone covering. This entrance, recessed into a large stone arch supported by two columns with decorative capitals, is ornamented with a lion's head keystone. A large multi-paned, semi-circular transom surmounts the double doors. Above the archway is a large stone with a decorative outline. Four one-over-one windows with single light transoms are divided by three stone pilasters. The windows have stone sills and lintels. The second and third story levels are divided by a stone band course. A large stone lintel is surmounted by louvered semi-circular windows set into a blind archway with gauged brick voussoirs. A wooden arch, painted white, encloses the two windows. Round stone ornamentation at the spandrels displays star designs. The tower facade is capped with a dentiled wooden cornice, metal roof gutter, and large pyramidal slate roof with ball finials.

The flanking wall east of the tower is four bays wide, while the west flanking wall is three bays wide. Both sides are designed similarly. Basement windows with gauged brick lintels punctuate the foundation walls and are surmounted by a stone water table. Windows on the first floor have one-over-one sash with a semi-circular multi-paned transom and gauged semi-circular arched brick lintels. The windows have stone sills, and a stone band course travels along the walls at the top rail level of the windows. Recessed rectangular brick panels decorate the walls between the first and second stories. The second story windows have one-over-one sash with a twelve-light transom, walls at the top rail level of the windows. The building walls are capped by corbeled brick and a metal roof gutter. A brick parapet rising above the walls is decorated with corbeled openings and topped by a metal cap.

The round cylindrical towers each have six windows identical to the second story windows on the building walls. The towers rise above the cornice, ending in conical roofs. Eight openings defined by pilasters punctuate the towers above the building's roof line. A flag pole is hung from the western cylindrical tower.

The side facade of the original building is ten bays wide with six-over-six sash, segmentally arched windows with double header brick lintels and stone sills. Basement openings of the same style have been bricked in. Projecting boys' and girls' entranceways are located on either end of the side facade. The entrances are composed of wide double doors above a stone stoop, a large multi-paned transom, a stone lintel, and a decorative metal pediment displaying "Boys" on the north entrance and "Girls" on the south. The walls end in a simple corbeled brick cornice and metal roof gutter. A four bay wide section connects the original building to a later addition. This section, containing a stairway, is styled similarly to the side facades of the original building.

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PUBLIC SCHOOL #99  
Baltimore City

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The first addition is eight bays wide with six-over-six windows of a wider proportion than the original side windows; these have stone sills and lintels. This addition is capped by a metal roof gutter over a brick cornice. A second addition is connected to this addition by a stuccoed building section housing a single hallway.

The rear addition is seven bays wide, constructed of dark brick, and three stories high. It is defined by three piers with smooth stone capitals. The south section has five nine-over-nine windows grouped together on the second and third floor levels. They have a shared stone sill and gauged brick lintel. The northern section has two smaller windows on the second and third stories. Both first stories have three nine-over-nine windows on each side, directly below a wide stone band course. The building walls are capped in crenelated stone molding.

The rear of the second addition is defined by a central entrance section projecting slightly and ending in a shallow pediment. It has a wide entrance on the first floor and a large window at the third floor level. The flanking walls are five bays wide. The outer windows are nine-over-nine with a stone sill and brick lintel. The central windows are tri-partite nine-over-nine with shared sills and lintels. The building walls end in crenelated stone molding.

The school's interior has a simple plan of classrooms flanking a central corridor which bends at the connecting walls of each section and ends in a T-shape in the rear addition. Main stairways are located in the connecting section between the original building and first addition and at the center of the rear addition. The interior's most notable characteristics include metal ceilings in many classrooms and the halls of both additions, interior windows (many of them have been painted over) in the original building section, and the large staircase with wooden handrails in the rear addition. The corner rooms facing the front have an unusual shape incorporating the round tower walls.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891/1905/1912 BUILDER/ARCHITECT A.S. Brown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Columbus School is a representative example of the best of Romanesque Revival architecture in Baltimore. The cylindrical end towers, large stone entrance arch, and central tower are characteristic of this style of architecture. The original building was constructed in 1891. The builder was A.S. Brown. It housed fourteen classrooms, cloak rooms for each class, well lighted, wide corridors, and the Smead system of ventilation. In 1905 an additional eight classrooms were added, as well as a new stairway. The final rear addition was constructed in 1912 when, at a cost of over \$53,000, ten new standard size classrooms (26 feet by 32 feet) were added. From 1912 the building housed thirty-three classrooms, three later converted to a library, health suite, and multi-purpose room. Since this school is still occupied, it has suffered less vandalism than the other five schools proposed for new housing.

The building is proposed for re-use as 39 housing units plus ground level meeting spaces for active neighborhood organizations. The school is located just south of Clifton Park. It is surrounded by two-story brick rowhouses of the turn of the century facing the school on three sides. Because of its size and location on North Avenue, a major traffic corridor, the school is a distinctive visual landmark for the community.

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Columbus School is an example of the best of Romanesque Revival architecture in Baltimore. The central pyramidal tower and end turrets are highly visible on North Avenue, a major traffic corridor. Built in three different stages, it represents the changing quality of school construction in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The interior metal ceilings are rare for Baltimore City schools.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore City Public Schools Reports, 1891, 1905, and 1912.

Baltimore City Inspector of Buildings Reports, 1891.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .77 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	3, 6, 2, 9, 0, 0	4, 3, 5, 2, 4, 7, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Irregularly shaped lot, 112 feet on North Avenue, 200 feet on Washington Street, and 146 feet on 20th Street.

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

Fred Shoken, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation

DATE

1978

STREET & NUMBER

100 North Holliday Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 396-4866

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*J. Little*

8-9-79

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William H. Bradman*

DATE 9-25-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Emma Jane Sage*

DATE 9-24-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



School #999112 13 1970  
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4351540  
247

# BALTIMORE

Oliver Cromwell Sch

Radio Tower (WITH)

Holy Cross Cem  
Calambus Sch

Catholic Girls High Sch

Polytechnic Institute

Gompers' Vocational Sch

BALTIMORE

GREENMOUNT CEMETERY

St Josephs Hospital

Bollington Square

St Alphonsus Cemetery

Womens Hospital Mt Royal Sta

University of Baltimore

Robt E Lee Sch

Henderson Sch

Patrick Henry Sch

Reg Mary

State Penitentiary and City Jail

Dunbar Jr-Sr High Sch

Tilghman Sch

Johns Hopkins Hospital

Pratt

Reading Clinic and Sch

Vocational Sch

John Rodgers Sch

St Elizabeth Sch

Municipal Office Bldg

Shot Tower

Weglein Sch

Holy Rosary Sch

Patterson Park Jr-Sr High Sch

TV Tower (WIMAR)

Courthouse

Weglein Sch

Library

Patterson Sch

U of Md Sch of Medicine

St Johns Sch

Weglein Sch

Library

Patterson Sch

Pratt

St Johns Sch

Weglein Sch

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