

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 30 1973

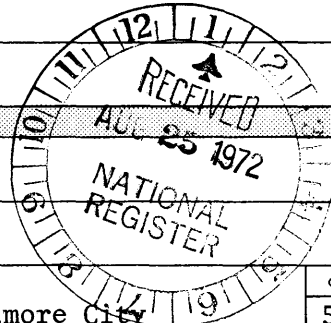
**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
McKim's School  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
McKim Free School

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1120 East Baltimore Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Community recreation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
The Trustees of McKim's School  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
1120 East Baltimore Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Liber: TK 293 Folio: 108  
Land Record Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Baltimore City Courthouse	CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: HABS  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road	CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland	COUNTY: Baltimore City	ENTRY NUMBER MAR 30 1973	DATE
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

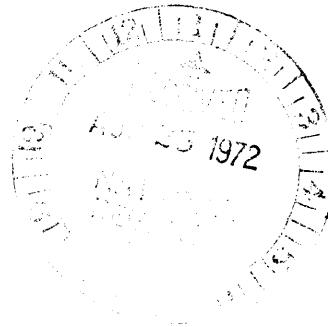
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	Interior	Exterior				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McKim's School is located on the north side of East Baltimore Street in Baltimore City.

William Howard, the designer of the Barnum's City Hotel in Baltimore (built between 1825 and 1827 and demolished in 1889), and William Small who designed extant Archbishop's Residence on North Charles Street, Baltimore, were the architects for this archaeologically accurate Greek-style building. The designers copied the Temple of Athena and Hephaestus, better known as the Thesium, in Athens, for the granite facade of the school. The sides were derived from the north wing of the Propylaea on the Athenian Acropolis. Six freestone columns, seventeen feet tall, support the entablature and pediment. This popular Doric style was noticeable in the design of Small's several buildings, including Male School #1 at Greene and Fayette Streets in 1830; Male School #3 on Aisquith Street, 1831-1832; and Male and Female School #2 at Broadway and Bank Street in 1834.

The interior was originally a single large room with a brick floor. Subsequently, two small rooms were created and the brick floor was covered with hardwood and a wooden ceiling was hung beneath the pitched roof. In 1945, when the building was adapted for use as a neighborhood recreation center, a mezzanine floor and a double staircase leading to two classrooms and a storeroom were installed. Beneath the stairs is an alcove which can be used as a stage, and in the rear (north) of the building are two offices, lavatories, and a furnace room.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

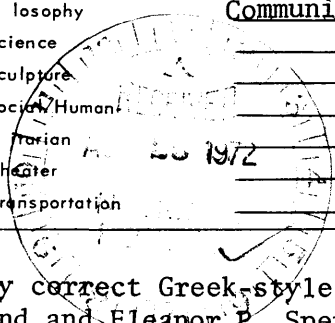
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1833

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Community recreation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

McKim's School is the most archaeologically correct Greek-style building in Baltimore according to Richard H. Howland and Eleanor P. Spencer.<sup>1</sup>

In the early nineteenth century, John McKim (1742-1819), a Quaker merchant, "animated by the noble desire of promoting the education and thereby increasing the future happiness and comfort of a portion of poor youths in the city," conceived the idea of a "School for the education of indigent youth without respect or preference to any religious sect or denomination." He conveyed annuities from his estate "to Trustees . . . persons usually attending divine worship at Friends Meeting House . . . ." The Trustees were "declared to be one body politic and corporate, with perpetual succession in deed and in law to all intents and purposes whatever . . .," and were to administer the ground rents or annuities provided and to maintain the building.<sup>2</sup>

John McKim never lived to see his school erected, but his sons, William D. and Isaac, undertook to carry out their father's plans. The school, from Kindergarten level upward, opened soon after the building was completed in 1833. Despite the growth of the public school system, established in Baltimore in 1826, McKim's continued in operation until the period of the Civil War. At that time, there was a pressing need for day care and the school became a facility for younger children only. This project was conducted until 1945, when a youth program was added along with athletic training and a Bible School.

In 1924, the Friends offered the building as a place of worship to an Italian Presbyterian congregation. This led to an alliance of Friends and Presbyterians which is today the McKim Community Association. The Association was formed to ensure continuation of objectives set forth in the charter for use of the building for educational purposes. In 1955, the Association was incorporated to oversee all aspects of the McKim projects, which by now had expanded beyond the building itself. the Association uses the building for some of its programs and McKim's School is still serving the community's present-day requirements, as John McKim intended it should.

<sup>1</sup>The Architecture of Baltimore (Baltimore, 1953), p. 59.

<sup>2</sup>Charter of McKim's School, incorporated by the General Assembly of Maryland, December Seesion, 1810: with the By-Laws of the Trustees of that Institution. Baltimore, 1821.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Mrs. John Howard Eager III, Volunteer, Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sources:  
see continuation sheet

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	17'	27"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	76°	36'	06"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 19 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Arthur Townsend, Associate Director for Field Services, and staff

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: June 29, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date June 29, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/30/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/23/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 30 1973

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Landmark List

1965 Local x

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation  
402 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland State code 24

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Alexander, Robert. "William F. Small, Architect of the City." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol. 20, no. 2 (May 1961).

Charter of McKim's School, incorporated by the General Assembly of Maryland, December session, 1810: with the By-Laws of the Trustees of that Institution. (Baltimore: T. Murphy, Printer, 1821).

Howland, Richard H. and Spencer, Eleanor P. The Architecture of Baltimore. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953, p. 59).

Personal interviews with Philip Myers, Trustee of McKim's School.

