

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 13 1979
DATE ENTERED SEP 5 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 Colored School #9; No. Primary School 39

AND/OR COMMON School #111 (preferred); Francis Ellen Harper School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southwest corner of North Carrollton Avenue and Riggs Road

CITY, TOWN	Baltimore	___ VICINITY OF	Seventh	___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
STATE	Maryland	CODE	24	COUNTY
				Baltimore City
				CODE
				510

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET & NUMBER Room 250, City Hall

CITY, TOWN Baltimore STATE Maryland
VICINITY OF 21202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office, Room 601

STREET & NUMBER Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Baltimore STATE Maryland
VICINITY OF 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
VICINITY OF 21202

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Francis Ellen Harper School, #111, is a Romanesque brick structure that is a rather simple building with an ornately detailed brick front facade. Built in a traditionally black neighborhood two blocks from Lafayette Square, the school is surrounded by mid and late 19th century rowhouses in good condition.

The two-story, three-bay wide building features a projecting entrance and a recessed section above with large semi-circular windows. The projecting entrance is defined by simple brick pilasters with stone capitals and bases and a large triple header brick entrance arch surmounted by a metal cornice and blind balustrade. The cornice is supported by corbeled brick brackets. The balustrade has stone end caps. The entrance doors are set into a recessed arch and are surmounted by a large multi-paned, semi-circular transom protected by a metal grill. Three stone steps lead to the doors.

The entrance is surmounted by a stone sill below three windows. The central window is tripartite. The second story windows are one-over-one with flat arch transoms surmounted by large metal blocks displaying "No. Primary School 39". Above the blocks are semi-circular windows with double header brick voussoirs. The central bipartite window is larger but proportional. Stone impost blocks defining simple pilasters divide the windows of the central bay. The windows and projecting entrance are set into a large, slightly recessed brick archway with Voussoirs of four row, header bond brick. The remainder of the central portion features a small basement window with splayed brick lintels, a stone water table, narrow one-over-one windows with stone sills and elongated stone lintels on the first story, a brick band course decorated with recessed header bricks, and a metal cornice capping the second story. This central projection ends in a shallow brick pediment with basket weave brickwork at the apex, a metal cornice, and brick pinnacles capped in stone.

The flanking building walls are punctuated by long four-over-four windows on the first floor, with stone sills and elongated stone lintels. The first story is defined by a marble water table and brick band course at the second story level. Wide basement windows (one has been bricked in) with splayed brick lintels punctuate the foundation walls. The second story windows are four-over-four, semi-circular in shape with stone sills, stone impost blocks, and double header, semi-circular brick lintels. Above a metal cornice is a brick parapet wall decorated with ten panels of recessed brick. The top five are semi-circular with header lintels. The parapet is capped by a simple metal cornice.

The side facades are ten bays long with four-over-four, segmentally arched windows with stone sills and double header brick lintels. Brick recessed panels decorate the walls between the first and second stories. Both side facades have basement entrances. The north facade has two first story entrances. One entrance, adjacent to the front facade, is recessed into a segmental triple header brick archway. Double doors surmount three stone steps. Above the doors is a multi-paned, segmentally arched transom. East of the entrance is the projecting brick base of a metal smoke stack. The entrance to the rear of the north facade is housed in a projecting building appendage with gabled roof. The entrance, facing the front facade, surmounts seven stone steps. It has a flat-arched transom and elongated stone lintel. A window, identical to the other side windows, punctuates the side facade of the entrance.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Francis Ellen Harper School was built in 1889 as Colored School #9. It was a facility for black children and staffed by black teachers. The City of Baltimore began providing education for blacks in 1867. The separate school systems for whites and blacks operated as late as the 1950's. The purpose of systems for whites and blacks was stated in the 1868 Public School Report:

It is true that education is given the white, partly that he may be better fitted for his public duties as a citizen, which reason is happily inapplicable in Maryland to the Colored race. But in so far as public education tends to diminish crime, to promote order, no good reason can be given why the good society will be less advanced by instructing the colored than the white race.

School #111 is proposed for rehabilitation into twelve housing units. The school contrasts sharply with surrounding residences because of its height and size. It stands on a corner lot with housing facing it on three sides.

The school is named after Francis Ellen Harper (1825-1911), a Baltimore born black poet. She attended a Free Negro School conducted by her uncle, William Watkins, while a child in Baltimore. By 1854 she became recognized as a great black poet with her work Autumn Leaves.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Francis Ellen Harper School is significant as one of the few surviving schools built for black children and staffed by black teachers. The earliest schools for blacks were usually rented facilities or older schools which had originally been used by whites. It also stands as a monument to the memory of Francis Ellen Harper, a Baltimore born black poet. She was recognized as a great poet as early as 1854.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore City Public School Reports, 1868, and 1889-90.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .35 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Baltimore West Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 3587510 | 435121410
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 105' x 157' on the southwest corner or North Carrollton Avenue and Riggs Road

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Fred Shoken, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation 1978

STREET & NUMBER

100 North Holliday Street

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

DATE

TELEPHONE

(301) 396-4866

STATE

Maryland 21202

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Signature]

8-9-79

DATE

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>William H. Antram</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>9-25-79</u>
ATTEST: <i>Anna Jane Saxe</i> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE <u>9-24-79</u>

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School #111
Baltimore City

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The rear of the building is defined by a projecting gable end section with a covered outdoor metal stairway to the second floor. Three small four-over-four, segmentally arched windows (two bricked in) with stone sills and double header brick lintels punctuate the rear building walls. An attic window of the same style and two bipartite two-over-two windows with similar lintels and sills are also located on the rear projecting gable end. Both gable ends are capped in a corbeled brick cornice with returns.

The interior of School #111 is organized around a central hallway running from the front to the rear with classrooms flanking the corridor. Stairways are located in the front and the rear adjacent to the hallway. The first room to the right of the front entrance appears to have been converted into an office or reception room. The interior features wooden floors, plaster ceilings, and paneled doors with transoms. The door and window surrounds have bull's eye corner blocks. The building's interior has been heavily vandalized.