

B-19

## McKim Free School

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 03-10-2011***

# Easement

MA61#0400192402 B-19

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

### 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

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

District

Building

Site

Structure

Private

Both

Object

OWNERSHIP

Public Acquisition:

In Process

Being Considered

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Baltimore City

CODE

510

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

Occupied

Unoccupied

Preservation work  
in progress

Yes:

Restricted

Unrestricted

No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural

Commercial

Educational

Entertainment

Government

Industrial

Military

Museum

Park

Private Residence

Religious

Scientific

Transportation

Other (Specify)

Community recreation

Comments

### 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

### 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

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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
Interior	(Check One)			Exterior	(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The McKim's School is located on the north side of East Baltimore Street in Baltimore City.</p> <p>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<sup>3</sup> 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 Propylaia 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.</p> <p>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, laboratories, and a furnace room.</p>						

S E E - S T R U C T U R E S

## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

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

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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/Phi. losophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Community recreation
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

## 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 Session, 1810: with the By-Laws of the Trustees of that Institution. Baltimore, 1821.

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

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

S E E  
I N S T R U C T I O N S

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

## Landmark List

1965

Local 

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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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

## 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

## 3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Baltimore East

SCALE: 1.24,000

DATE: 1953 photorevised 1966

## 4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

MCKIM'S SCHOOL  
1120 EAST BALTIMORE ST.  
LONGITUDE 76°36'06"  
LATITUDE 39°17'27"

B-19



(RELAY)  
5662 11 NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore

## SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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

B-19

## 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

## 3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Romaine Somerville

DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation  
Room 402, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland

## 4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

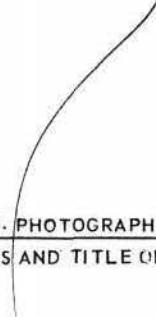
McKim's School from the southeast



# Easement

0019

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Baltimore City</b> TOWN <b>VICINITY</b> STREET NO. <b>Baltimore &amp; Aisquith Street</b> <b>1120 E. Baltimore Street</b>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>B-19</b>							
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		<sup>2. NAME</sup> <b>McKim Free School</b> DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER							
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE									
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC							
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Endangered</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Interior</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Exterior</td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endangered	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exterior		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endangered	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exterior				
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 		7. PHOTOGRAPH 							
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER							
DATE OF RECORD									

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

AP  
B-19

Please change the name of McKim Free School (B-19) to McKim's School.

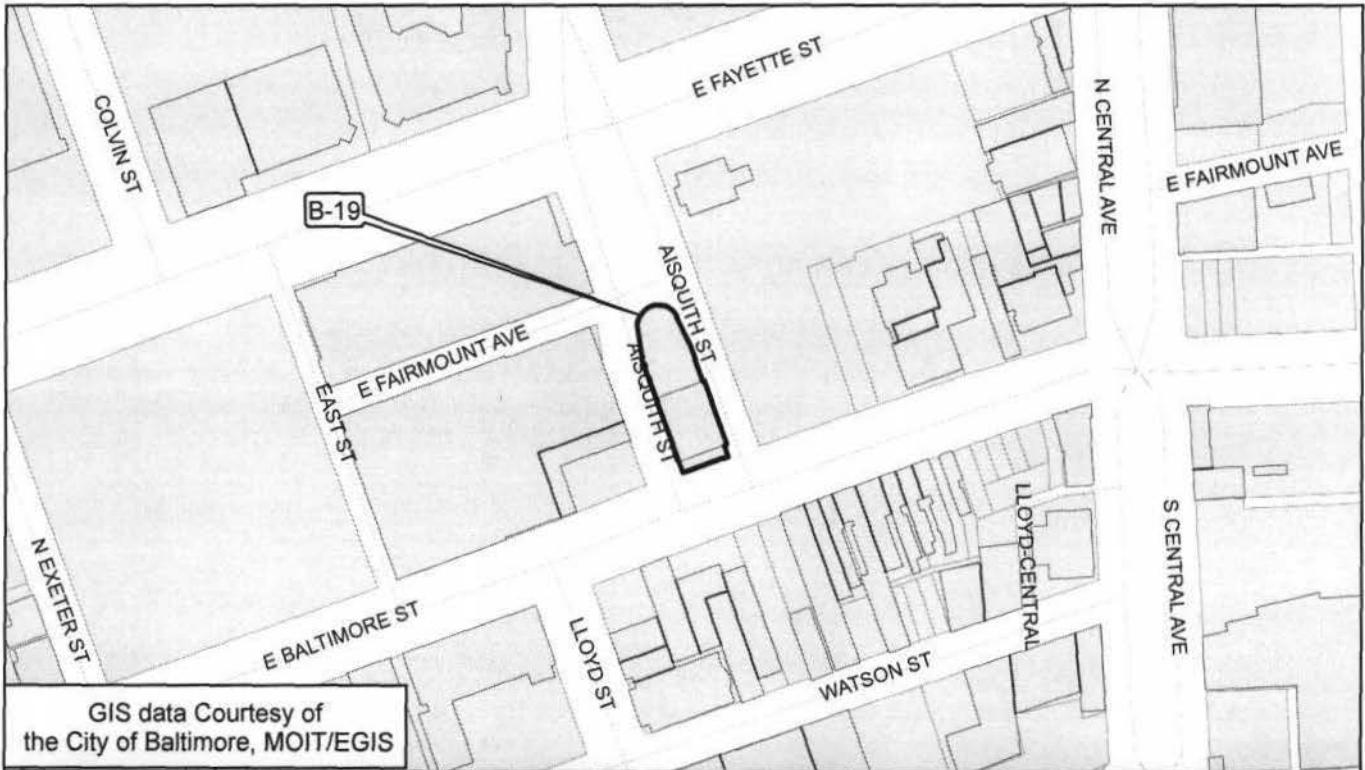
Kitty Black

August 18, 1971

What makes this official? ① Your title  
as advisor of CHAP? ② Is there an  
amendment to the city landmark  
approved list or what? Is there any  
Trustees minutes except from the school?

B-19

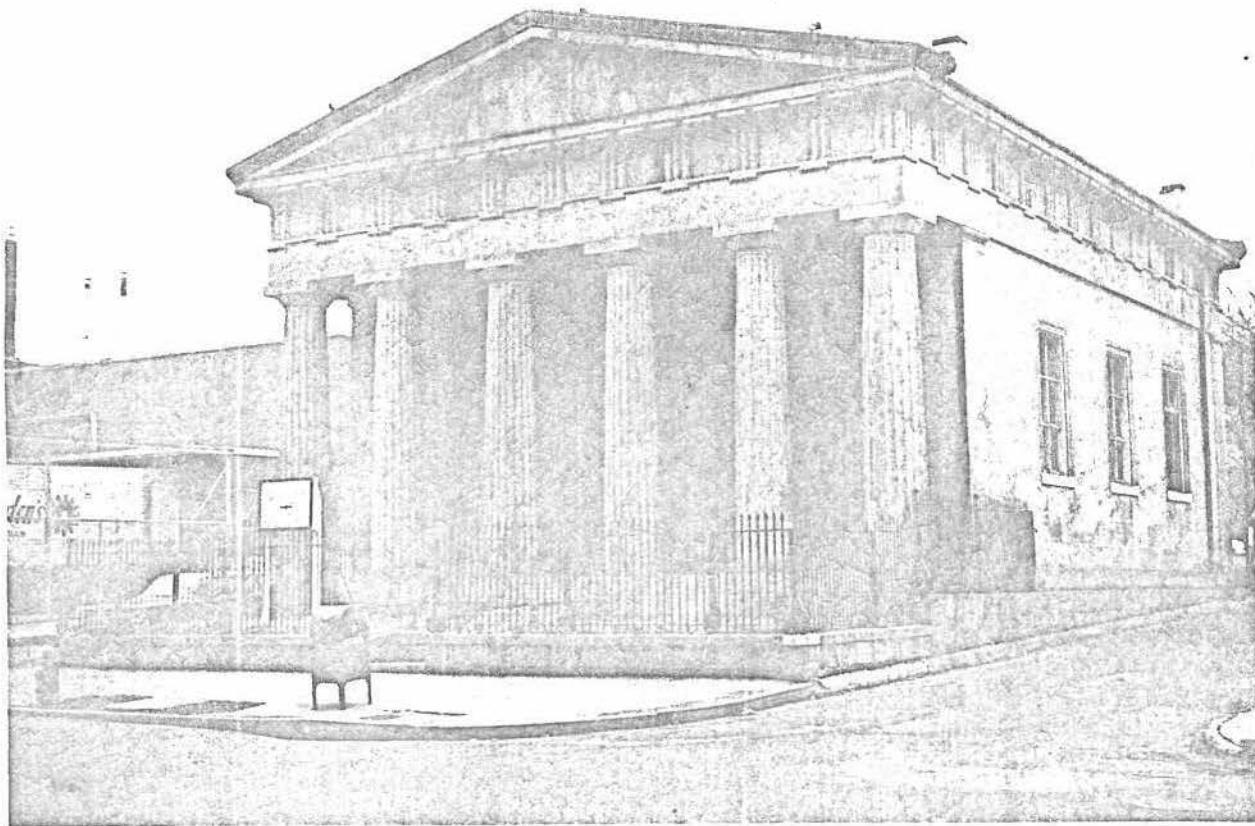
McKim Free School  
1120 E. Baltimore Street  
Block 1338, Lot 004  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



CHAP proposed to City Council as landmark

B-19

McKIM FREE SCHOOL



1120 E. Baltimore Street

1833

Architects: William Howard &  
William F. Small

The McKim School was an innovation in education when it was built in 1833. Long a dream of John McKim, a successful Quaker merchant, it became a reality through his bequest of \$600 annually for the support of a free school to be administered by the Society of Friends. The school flourished as a charitable institution until the spread and gradual improvement of public education at the turn of the century. Since then, it has functioned as a church and as headquarters for the McKim Community Center.

The building, designed by William Howard and William F. Small, reflects the popular interest in Greece during the 1820's, and it served as a model for other school architecture in the city. It is the most archaeologically accurate building in Baltimore, being a copy of the Theseum and north wing of the Propylaea, in Athens.

Deed ref: TK 293/108  
Wd: 5 Sec: 7  
Blk: 1338 Lot: 4

Lot size: 48' x 169'

Owner: McKim School Trustees



B-19

McKim's School

(McKim Free School)

1120 E. Baltimore Street

Baltimore



McKim Free School

13. 19

Baltimore + Aisquith Sts

Baltimore, Md.

1833

Howard + Small

FROM CHAP



McKIM'S SCHOOL

B-19

1180 E. Pennsylvania Street

Regular belongs to Chay

FROM CHAP

Gretchen Redden

1970

101