

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) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-10-2011

Easement

MAG1#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)

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. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<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 (Specify) Community recreation

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 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore City
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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						
<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 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, lavatories, and a furnace room.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <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/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | Community recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

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.¹

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.²

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.

¹The Architecture of Baltimore (Baltimore, 1953), p. 59.

²Charter 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.

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	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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 x ~~3~~

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.

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	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

17'30"

520 000
FEET

MIDDLE
BRANCH

39°15'

76°37'30"

910 000 FEET

(RELAY)
5602 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



MN

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


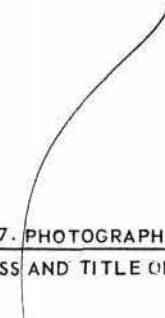
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore City TOWN _____ VICINITY _____ STREET NO. Baltimore & Aisquith Street 1120 E. Baltimore Street ORIGINAL OWNER _____ ORIGINAL USE _____ PRESENT OWNER _____ PRESENT USE _____ WALL CONSTRUCTION _____ NO. OF STORIES _____		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY B-19	
		2. NAME McKim Free School 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 Endangered Interior 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

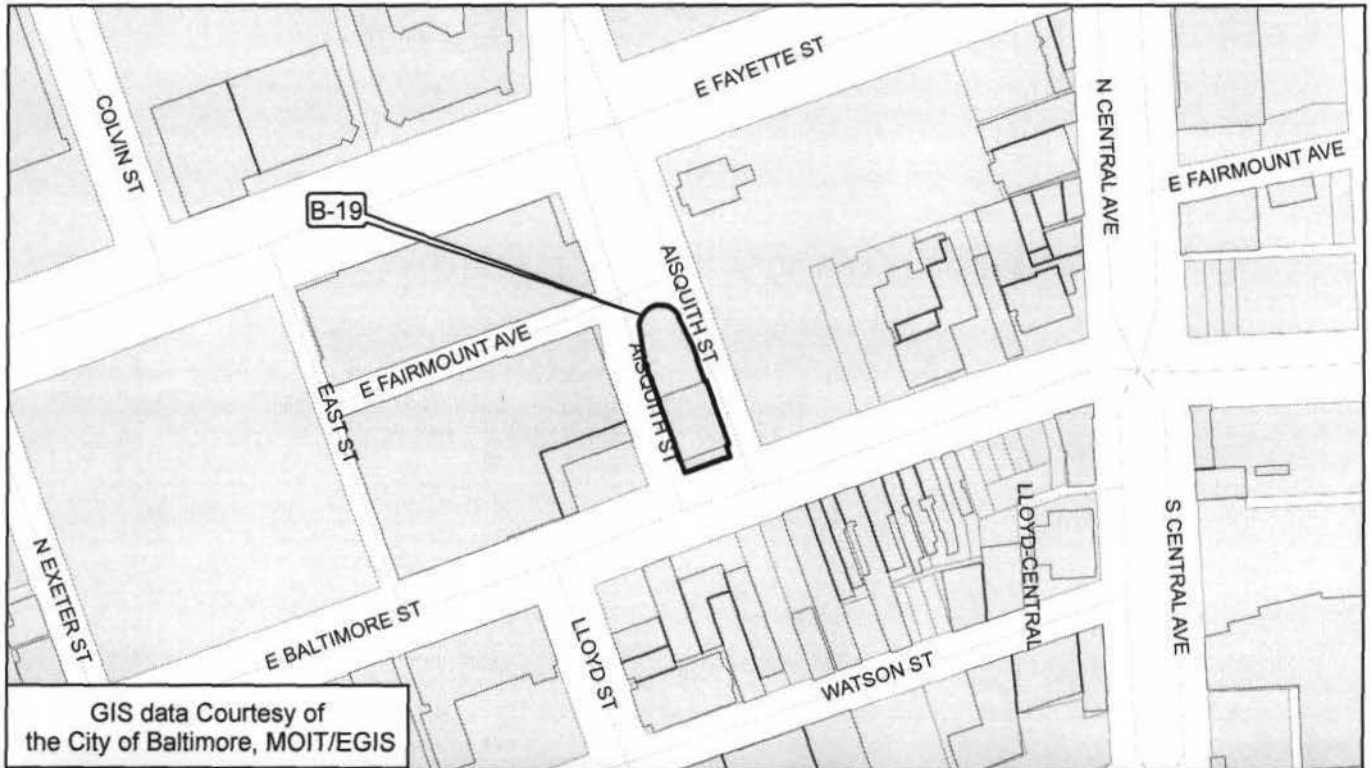
Please change the name of McKim Free School (B-I9) to McKim's School.

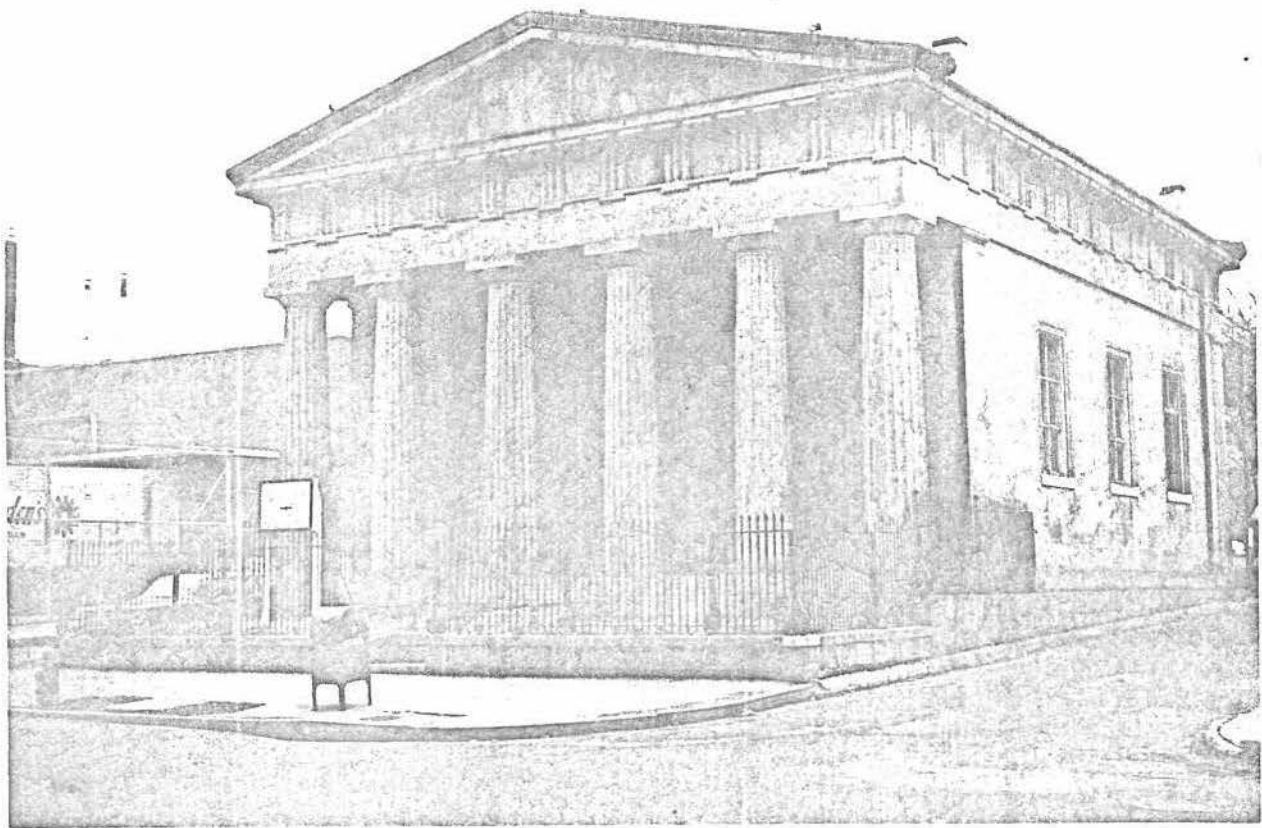
Kitty Black

August 18, 1971

What makes this special? 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.



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



McKIM

B-19

McKim's School

(McKim Free School)

1120 E. Baltimore Street

Baltimore



McKim Free School

B. 19

Baltimore + Aisquith Sts

Baltimore, Md.

1833

Howard + Small

FROM CHAP



McKIM'S SCHOOL

B-19

1100 E. Portland Street

Negative belongs to Chap.

FROM CHAP

Gretchen Redden - 1970

101