HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike (Route 108) Clarksville

Description:

The Clarksville High School is located on the northwest side of the road, in Clarksville. The school has a flat site, with the original building set close to the road and facing southeast toward it. There are several eras of additions to the back of the school, plus a brick shop building and steel pole building to the northeast of the school. The original school building is a three-story, five-bay by three-bay brick structure of running bond with a hip roof that has slate and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a one-story brick "T" on the northwest side, with a flat roof. The southeast elevation center bay has a doorway on the first story with a recessed opening flanked by Doric in antis pilasters, frieze with triglyphs, and modillion cornice. The four other bays on all three stories each contain four one-over-one sash with a one-light transom. All three stories have a similar plan with a corridor running along the northwest side, with stairwells at both ends of the corridor, and with a range of rooms along the southeast side. The auditorium has a raised stage on the northeast end that has a wood floor and pilasters flanking the proscenium.

Significance:

The Clarksville High School was built in 1938-39 as part of a Public Works Administration (PWA) program to further the consolidation of schools and improve school facilities in Howard County and the rest of the country. Baltimore architect Clyde Friz was hired to design this structure. The school board minutes state: "The Board of Education, believing that the best interests of the public would be served by accepting Alternate No. 2, rather than Alternate No. 1, awarded the bid to Costanza Construction Company for \$77,383, which was the base bid for the complete building, less Alternate No. 2, which provided for a flat roof rather than a pitched roof." Clarksville High School was ready to begin the school year in September, 1939. The property is scheduled to be sold by Howard County, and the building may be demolished in 2009 in order to facilitate the sale of the land.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

historic	Clarksville High	h School							
other									=======================================
2. Location									
street and number	12240 Clarksvi	lle Pike (Route	e 108)				_ no	ot for pub	ication
city, town	Clarksville						vi	cinity	
county	Howard								
3. Owner of	Property	(give nam	es and mailing	addresses of	all owners)			
name	Howard County	Maryland							
street and number	3430 Courthous	se Drive				telephone			
city, town	Ellicott City			state MD		zip code	210)43	
4. Location	of Legal D	escripti	on						
courthouse, registr		Howard Coun	ty Courthouse		liber	195 folio 2	34		
city, town 5. Primary L Contr	y of deeds, etc. Ellicott City Cocation of ibuting Resource i	f Addition	tax map 34 onal Data gister District	tax parce	WW.Table	CHARLES AND AND	34 (ID num	nber	
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7.	Description	1
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Inventory No. HO-976

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
X	good	ruins
	_ fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The Clarksville High School is located at 12240 Clarksville Pike (Route 108), on the northwest side of the road, in Clarksville in southern Howard County, Maryland. The school has a flat site, with the original building set close to the road and facing southeast toward it. There are several eras of additions to the back of the school, plus a brick shop building and steel pole building to the northeast of the school. The original school building is a three-story, five-bay by three-bay brick structure of running bond with a hip roof that has slate and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a one-story brick "T" on the northwest side, with a flat roof. The southeast elevation center bay has a doorway on the first story with a recessed opening flanked by Doric in antis pilasters, frieze with triglyphs, and modillion cornice. The four other bays on all three stories each contain four one-over-one sash with a one-light transom. All three stories have a similar plan with a corridor running along the northwest side, with stairwells at both ends of the corridor, and with a range of rooms along the southeast side. The auditorium has a raised stage on the northeast end that has a wood floor and pilasters flanking the proscenium.

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School, exterior

The original school building is a three-story, five-bay by three-bay brick structure of running bond with a hip roof that has slate and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a one-story brick "T" on the northwest side, with a flat roof. The southeast elevation center bay has a doorway on the first story with a recessed opening flanked by Doric in antis pilasters, frieze with triglyphs, and modillion cornice. There is a pair of doors with six lights over one panel, full-height sidelights with 12 lights, and a tripartite transom with 16 lights over the doors and four over each sidelight. The second and third stories of the center bay each have a triple sash, with a large one-over-one sash flanked by a narrow one-over-one on each side, and with a fixed one-light transom over each of the three sash. The four other bays on all three stories each contain four one-over-one sash with a one-light transom. Many of these transoms have snap-in muntins creating an eight-light appearance. All of the sash are new. There is a belt course between the first and second stories, and another at the third-story sill level.

The southwest elevation has modern steel double doors in the west bay of the first story and a typical sash in the center and south bays, There is a two-bay, flat-roofed porch added here. The west bay has a typical sash, but with a narrower transom, between the first and second stories, and another, but with a larger transom, between the second and third stories. There are no openings in the other bays of these

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Name Continuation Sheet

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two stories. The northeast elevation is a mirror image of the southwest, but the third story also has a typical sash in the east and center bays. The northwest elevation has five bays exposed on the first story of the "T," with the north bay sash being altered to just a one-over-one and the other four bays having paired typical sash. There is a three-story tower rising above the east corner of the "T," and it has a one-over-one sash on the northwest elevation on both stories. There is a brick chimney in the east corner of this tower. The tower is against the main block, with one typical sash to the north and four to the west on the third story. The second story is not visible. There are modern, non-historic additions on both ends of the northwest elevation, and a modern addition on the northwest side of the north addition.

School, interior

All three stories have a similar plan with a corridor running along the northwest side, with stairwells at both ends of the corridor, and with a range of rooms along the southeast side. The first story has a passage in the center connecting the entrance to the corridor, with an office to the northeast of the passage and a bathroom to the southwest. There is also a bathroom to the northeast of the office. There are classrooms at either end of the building. The corridors have ranges of built-in double-stacked metal lockers along the southeast wall. The stairs are steel and have steel-plate balustrades. On the northwest side of the corridor is the auditorium, with a raised stage on the northeast end that has a wood floor and pilasters flanking the proscenium. A wall with three windows has been added to close off the stage from the auditorium. The proscenium is flanked on either side by a five-lying-panel door with a natural varnished finish. Most of the other doors in the building are modern replacements. The second story has four classrooms with a small room in the center that has wood bookshelves on both long walls. The southwest shelves appear to be original, while the northeast ones are added. The third story has the same plan as the second, but the center room does not have bookshelves. Many of the classrooms have a single stack of metal lockers built into one end wall and a closet on the northwest wall with wood shelves and natural-finish doors. The blackboard trim and baseboards also have a natural finish. The first-story classrooms also have additional built-in shelves with doors on the northwest wall.

Shop Building

To the northeast of the north addition is a one-story, three-bay by eight-bay brick structure of running bond, with a gable roof that has asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. The southwest elevation has a modern roll-up door in the center, with a flush steel door to the south. The gable end has a board door. The southeast elevation has seven large new one-over-one sash and a small one-over-one sash in the east bay. The northwest elevation has a hyphen attached to the center, connecting this building to the pole building just to the northwest. There are three large new sash to the west of the hyphen. The section to the north was not visible. The interior was not accessible.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. HO-976
Period 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 2000-	Areas of Significance agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	Check and jumps of the comment of th	ustify below health/medicine industry invention landscape archite law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government ecture religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	n/a		Architect/Builder	Clyde Friz
Construction da	ates 1938-39			
Evaluation for:	National Register	N	Maryland Register	Xnot evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary:

The Clarksville High School was built in 1938-39 as part of a Public Works Administration (PWA) program to further the consolidation of schools and improve school facilities in Howard County and the rest of the country. Baltimore architect Clyde Friz was hired to design this structure. The school board minutes state: "The Board of Education, believing that the best interests of the public would be served by accepting Alternate No. 2, rather than Alternate No. 1, awarded the bid to Costanza Construction Company for \$77,383, which was the base bid for the complete building, less Alternate No. 2, which provided for a flat roof rather than a pitched roof." Clarksville High School was ready to begin the school year in September, 1939. The property is scheduled to be sold by Howard County, and the building may be demolished in 2009 in order to facilitate the sale of the land.

Significance:

The Clarksville High School was built in 1938-39 as part of a Public Works Administration (PWA) program to further the consolidation of schools and improve school facilities in Howard County and the rest of the country. In the first quarter of the twentieth century school consolidation swept American education. It was made possible, in part, by improved transportation, especially the eventual adoption of school busses to transport children to a central location. One-room school houses began to be closed, and their replacements tended to be centralized in towns. Schoolhouse design also became standardized in this period, and the Clarksville High School is indicative of this trend. A new era of high school improvements in Howard County seems to have begun in 1935 with plans for a new building in Elkridge (which survives). Baltimore architect Clyde Friz was hired to design this structure and was retained to design the other high schools that followed. Friz was born in Michigan in 1867, studied architecture at MIT, and worked in St. Louis before moving to Baltimore and joining the prominent local firm of Wyatt and Nolting. Friz was a partner in several firms before forming Friz and Friz c. 1925 with Nelson Friz. He is best known as the architect of the main branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library (1933) and, along with John Russell Pope, the Scottish Rite Temple of Freemasonry (1932). It is not clear how Friz was chosen for the Clarksville School, but when an architect was needed two years later to design the Savage

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Inventory No. HO-976

Name Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

school, "the Superintendent presented the names of three architects for the consideration of the Board and nominated Mr. Clyde N. Friz for the commission inasmuch as Mr. Friz had had wide experience in the designing of school buildings."

The existing Clarksville school in 1937 was apparently a wood frame structure and had been built in 1914, at a cost of \$7,500. It had termites in 1934, and they returned in 1937. The need for additional space at Clarksville and several other schools seems to have been first raised in February 1937, both because of an increased number of students and because "it would be necessary in the future to provide a classroom for children who were mentally backward so that they themselves had better opportunities to learn subject matter in keeping with their ability and skills that would prepare them better to do their job in life in accordance with their ability." Nothing more was mentioned specifically about students with special needs, but a delegation from the Clarksville area met with the school board in June 1937 about the need to construct another building near the school to house a shop. No decision was made, and a year later a similar delegation met with the board to pursue a new building because of the condition of the old structure, which was termed "a grave fire hazard." Similar delegations from Lisbon and Ellicott City were pushing for new buildings in their communities, so the county commissioners and the school board together applied to the PWA for \$125,550 to build five schools, four high schools in Ellicott City, Clarksville, Lisbon, and Scaggsville, and the Highland Colored School. The total cost of the Clarksville school was estimated at \$60,000 and the total cost for all five buildings projected at \$279,000. Clyde Friz was hired to design all five buildings.²

The plan was to demolish the old Clarksville building and construct the new one on the same site, and the old building was sold for materials. Unfortunately, it was discovered in August 1938 that the new building would run foul of a water drain and a right of way to another lot, so it was decided to sell the old school lot and purchase another. The specifications were put out to bid at the same time, and the bids were opened on 3 November 1938. The base bids for the construction of the building ranged from \$82,933 to \$96,000, with Costanza Construction Company being the low bidder. The bids included prices for two alternates to the plans, though nowhere in the records are these alternates clearly described. However, the school board noted that the low bid exceeded their estimate of \$80,000 to build the school, forcing them to go with an alternative. The minutes state: "The Board of Education, believing that the best interests of the public would be served by accepting Alternate No. 2, rather than

¹ Andrew Gulliford, *America's Country Schools* (Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1984), pp. 41-45. Minutes of the Howard County Board of Education, 18 June 1935, p. 71; 30 July 1935, p. 76; 4 May 1937, p. 161. John Dorsey and James D. Dilts, *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture* (Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1981), p. 273.

² "Seek \$279,000 for School Buildings." *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 9 June 1938, p. 1, col. 6. Minutes of the Howard County Board of Education, 1 June 1937, p. 165; 2 February 1937, p. 150; 9 June 1937, p. 169; 7 June 1938, pp. 238-39; 29 July 1938, p. 13.

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Alternate No. 1, awarded the bid to Costanza Construction Company for \$77,383, which was the base bid for the complete building, less Alternate No. 2, which provided for a flat roof rather than a pitched roof." Nothing more is known about the builder at this time. The description of the flat roof is curious, because the main block of the building has a hip roof, and the "T" could have only had a flat roof, otherwise the roof would have blocked all the windows on the second story corridor. Presumably, the builder found a way to put on the hip roof and still stay within the budget.³

Unfortunately, there are no records describing the construction of the building. The plans do, however, survive. There was a partial basement under the stage, for the boiler. The "T" on the rear housed the stage and auditorium. Bathrooms were only located on the first story, flanking the entrance passage and the principal's office. Original bathroom stalls and fixtures survive, and the lockers and closets also appear to be original. The only substantial change to the building, other than the additions, is the replacement of windows and doors throughout most of the structure. The entrance originally had columns set inside of the in antis pilasters, but these are now missing. The two first story rooms were specialty class rooms, for industrial arts and a science laboratory. The second story had three "Elem." class rooms and one "H.S." class room. On the third story were a home economics room and three more "H.S." class rooms. The difference between the two types of class rooms is not known. The small center room on the second story was a library and the room above it was a teacher's lounge. The tower rising from the auditorium contained a store room on each of the upper floors. The building seems to have been constructed exactly according to the plans, with no changes whatsoever, and to complete it within about ten months, changes would have been difficult to make.⁴

Furnishings for the schools were purchased in bulk from the Dulany-Vernay Company and the James T. Vernay & Sons Company, both located in Baltimore, and window shades came from Caplan's Department Store in Ellicott City. In August 1939 Richard D. Reeley was hired to grade the Clarksville site, and the Board of Education inspected the new school. There were some parts of the building that were unacceptable or incomplete, but by 25 August they had been remedied and the building was accepted. Clarksville High School was ready to begin the school year in September, 1939, though there were a few items that were still incomplete. In October it was decided to carry the driveway leading to the school in a circle around the building to enable school busses to move in one direction and not have to turn around, thereby speeding up the loading and un-loading of students.⁵

³ "School Board to Spend \$104,000 for Three New Buildings," *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 14 July 1938, p. 1, col. 4. Minutes of the Howard County Board of Education, 30 August 1938, pp. 23-24; 3 November 1938, pp. 36-37.

⁴ Clyde N. Friz and Nelson Friz, architects, "Clarksville High School," October 1939, 6 sheets.

⁵ Minutes of the Howard County Board of Education, 25 April 1939, p. 79; 18 August 1939, p. 111-12; 25 August 1939, p. 114; 3 October 1939, p. 122.

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Clarksville High School had its own well to supply drinking water, and tests made on this well in November 1939 by the state health department found unsafe levels of bacteria. A chlorinator was loaned to the school by the health department, and by January of 1940 the water was potable. With the school complete, the only thing that remained to do was to add a bronze plaque with the year of construction and the names of all those involved. This plaque could not be located in the building. The high school was later converted to a middle school and later, still, the Clarksville Learning Center. It has most recently been used for SWAT team practice and has been vandalized to some extent, but it retains most of its character-defining features. The property is scheduled to be sold by Howard County, and the building may be demolished in 2009 in order to facilitate the sale of the land.

⁶ Minutes of the Howard County Board of Education, 16 November 1939, pp. 131-32; 5 December 1939, p. 133; 2 January 1940, p. 140; 7 May 1940, p. 157.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-976

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property
Acreage of historical setting
Quadrangle name

7.768 acres
7.768 acres
Clarksville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the property lines for tax map 34, parcel 23.

11. Form Prepared by

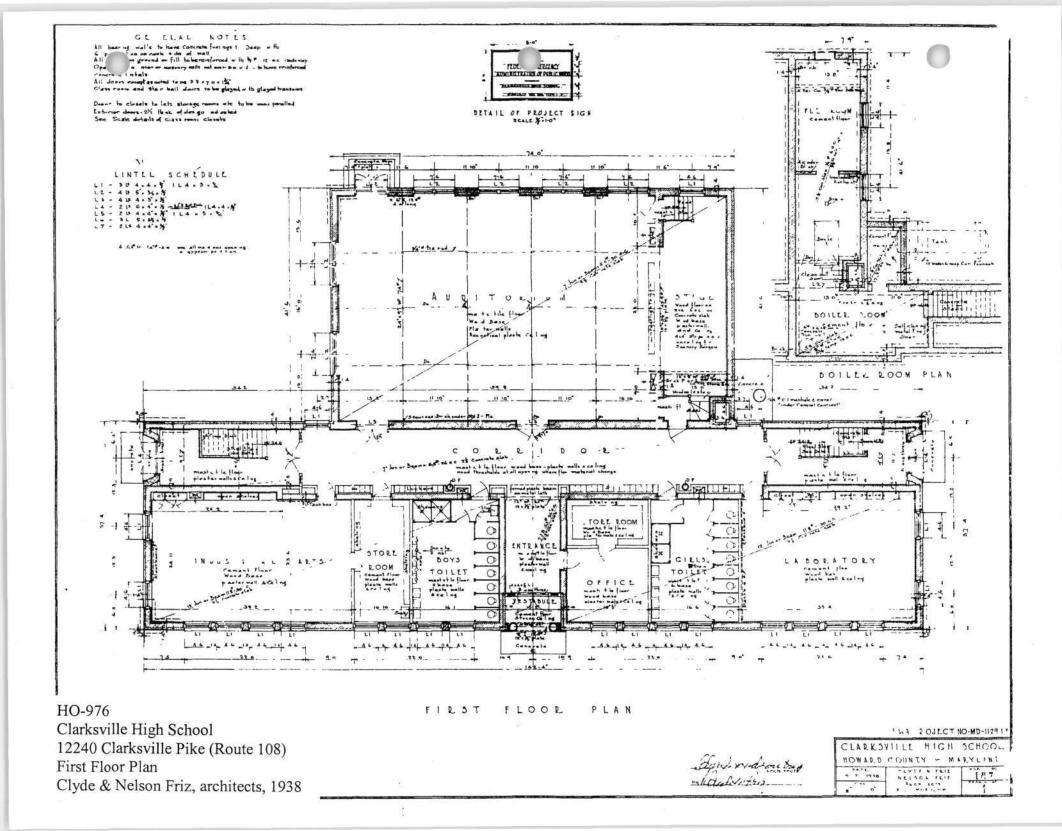
name/title	Ken Short				
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	May 2009		
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335		
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD		

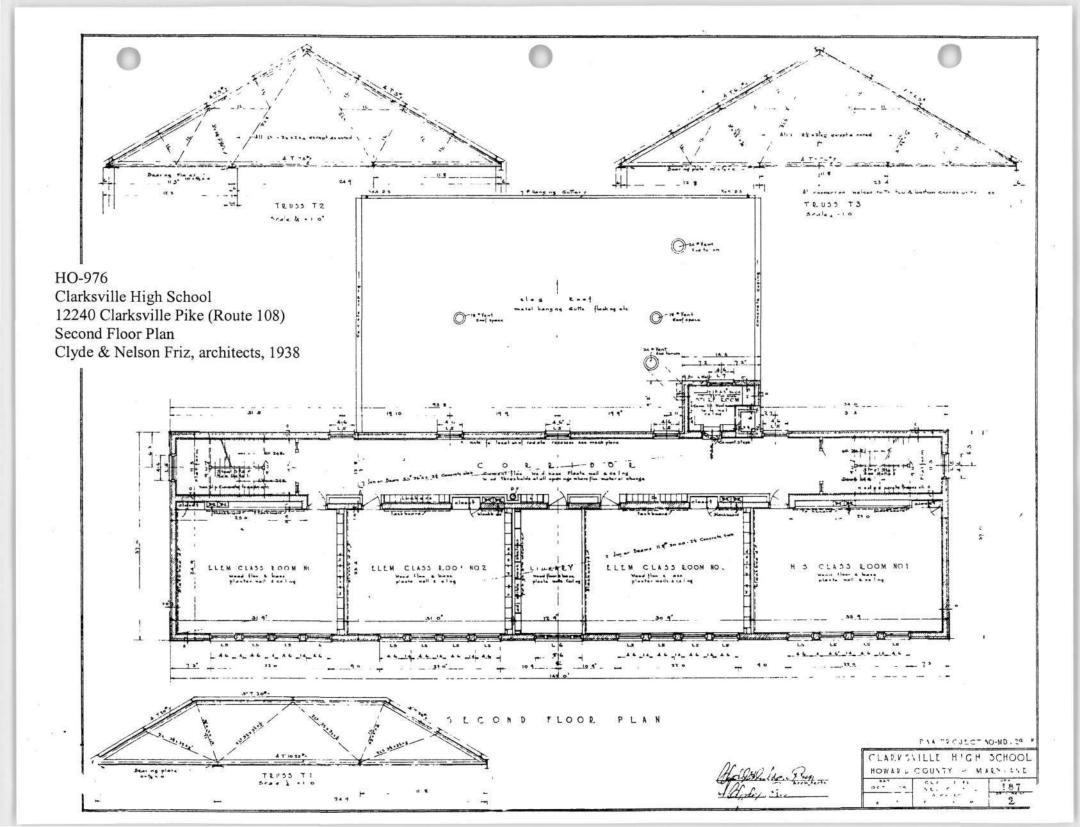
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

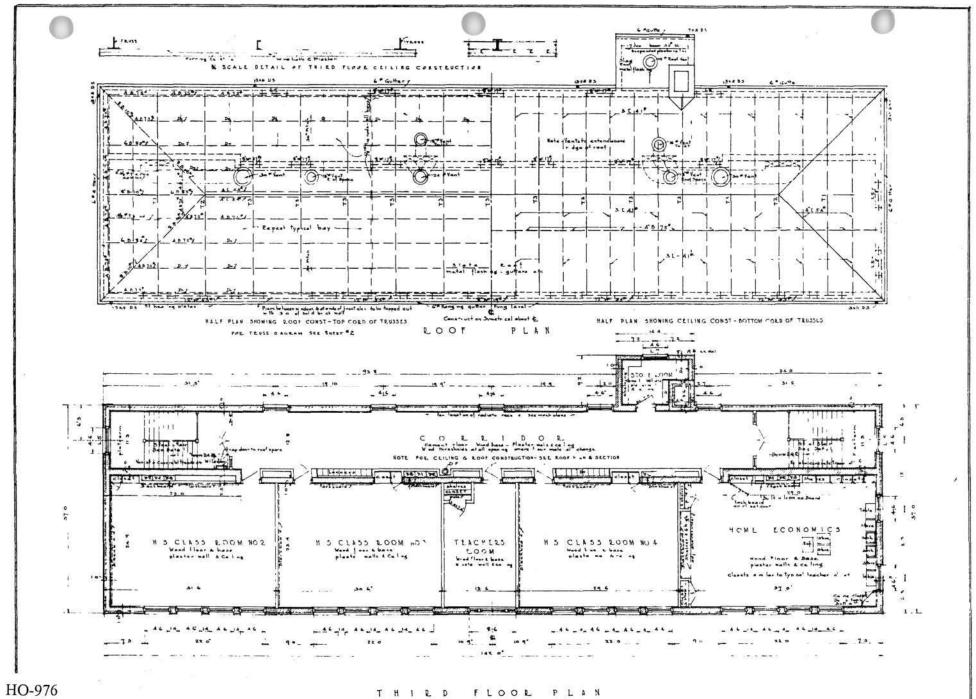
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600





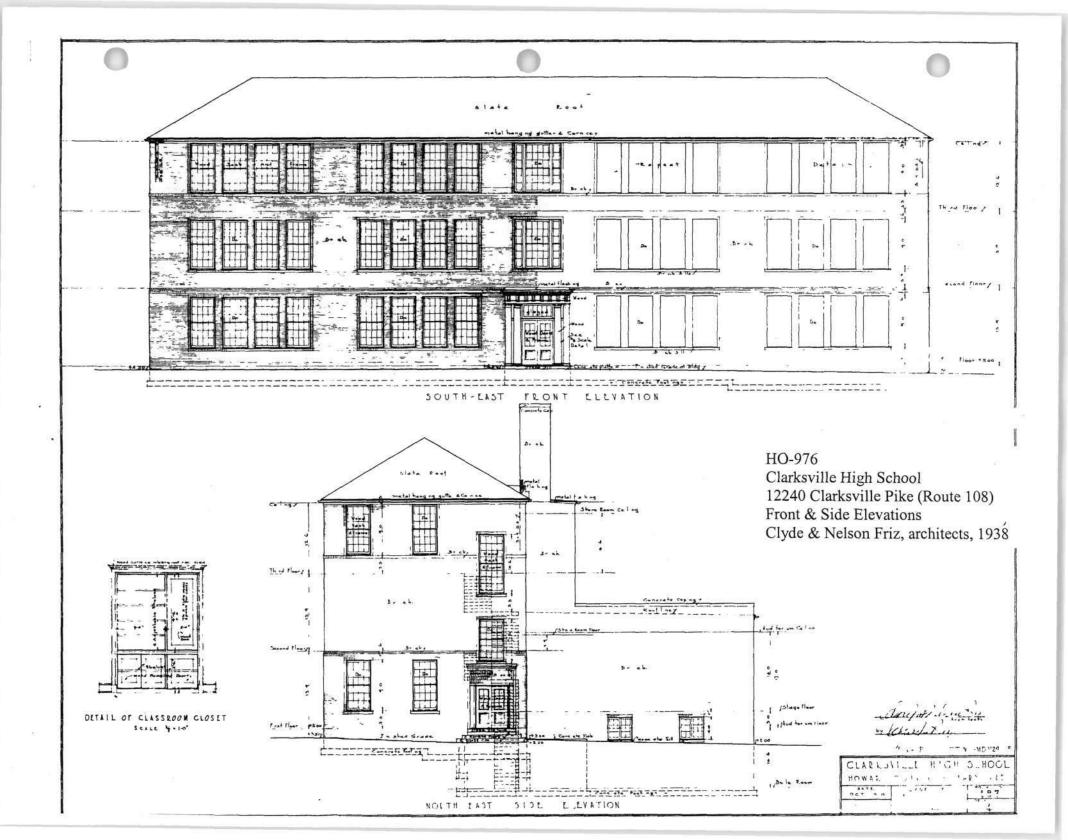


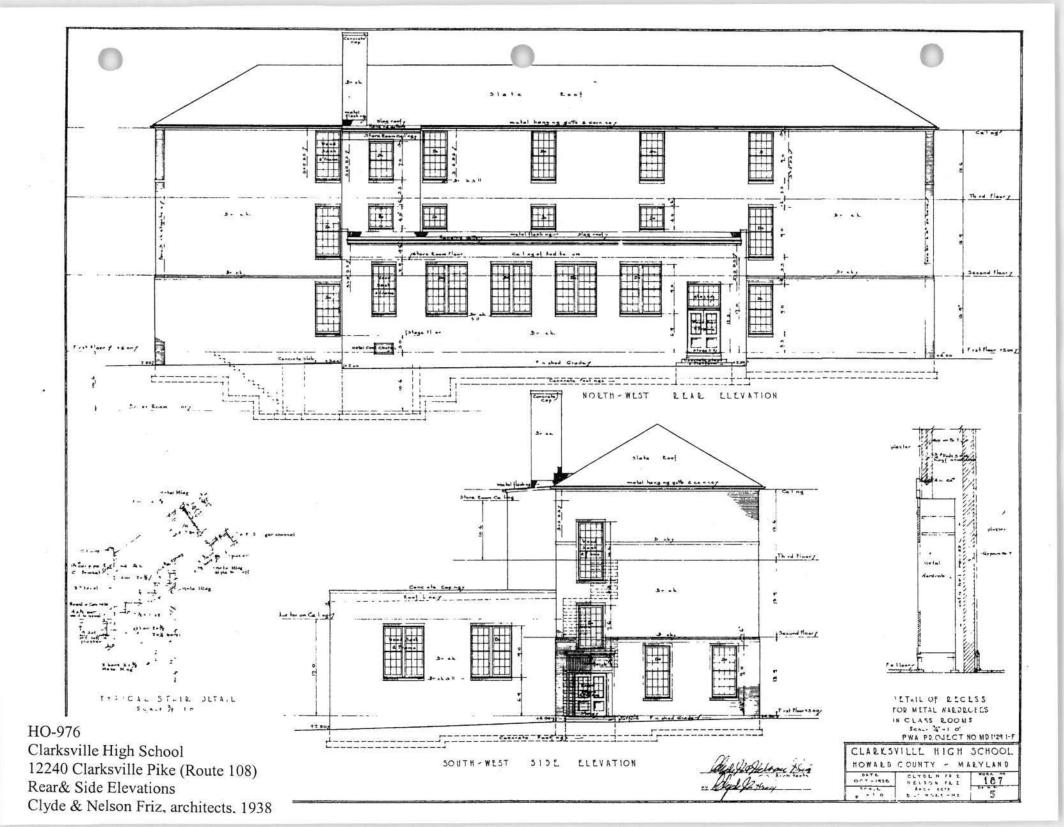
HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike (Route 108) Third Floor Plan Clyde & Nelson Friz, architects, 1938

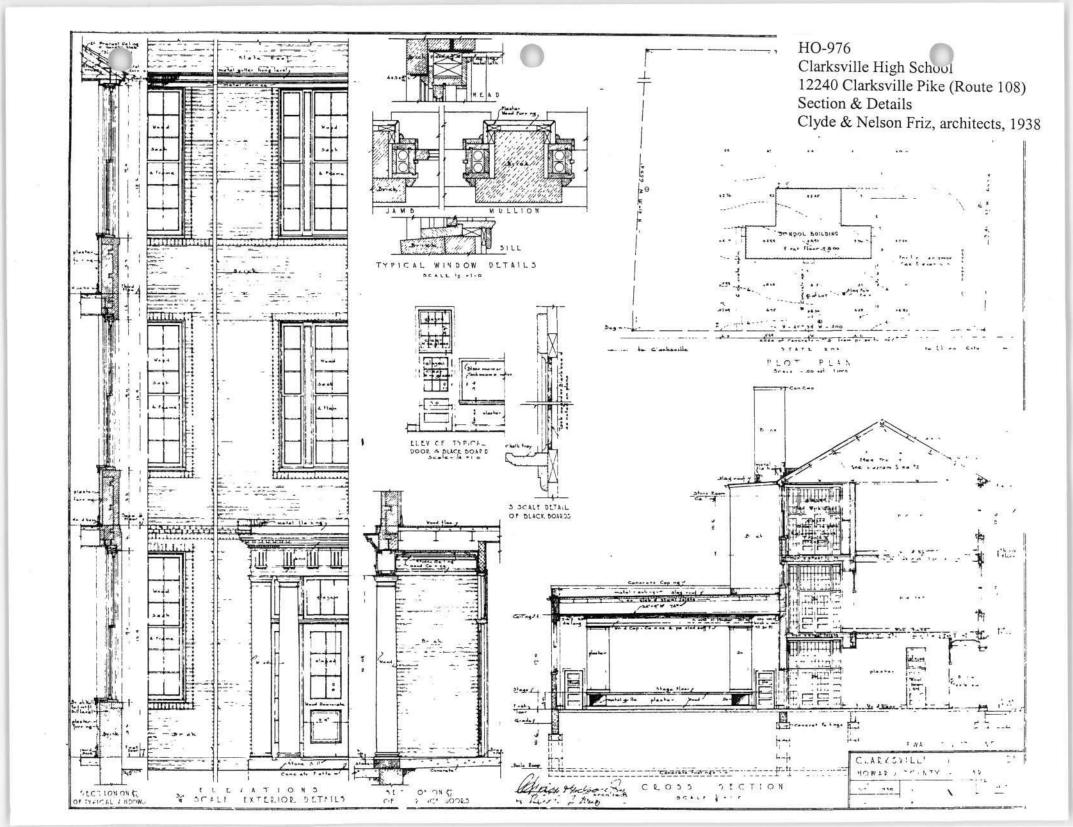
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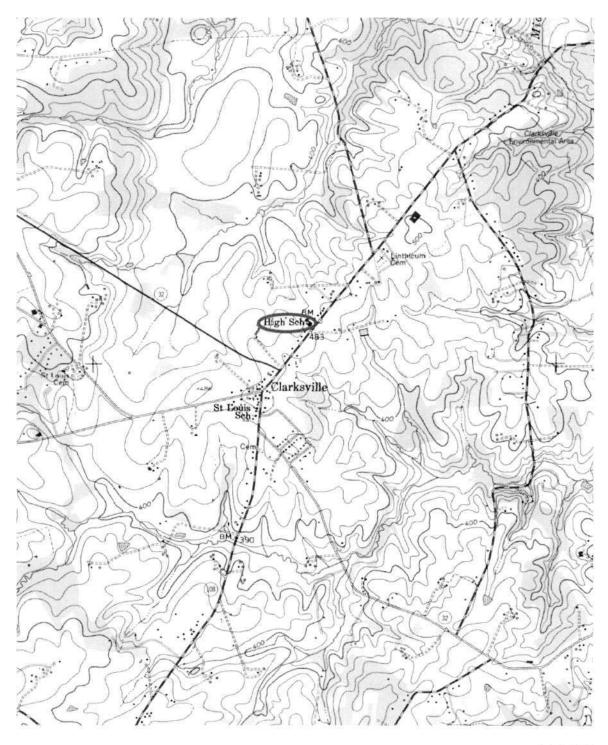
CLARKS/IL F HIGH SCHOOL

HOWARD COUNTY - M P (14N)









HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike Clarksville Clarksville quad

HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike (Route 108) Howard County, Maryland Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera HP Premium Plus paper HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0976_2008-12-08_01 Southeast elevation

heast elevation Interior, stairway

HO-0976_2008-12-08_02 Southeast elevation - door entablature HO-0976_2008-12-08_10 Interior, second story center room (library) – view south

HO-0976 2008-12-08 08

HO-0976_2008-12-08_03 Southeast & northeast elevations

HO-0976_2008-12-08_11 Shop building – southwest & southeast elevations

HO-0976_2008-12-08_04 Northwest & southwest elevations

HO-0976_2008-12-08_05 Northwest elevation - main block

HO-0976_2008-12-08_06 Interior, auditorium – view toward stage

HO-0976_2008-12-08_07 Interior, laboratory – northwest elevation

HO-0976_2008-12-08_08 Interior, classroom – view north



HO-976 Clarksville Nigh School 12240 Clarksville Rike (Rt 108) Howard Co Md. Ken Skart, plotographer

12-8-08 Southeast elevation 1/11





HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike (Rt 108) Howard Co, nd Ben Shart, ghotographer 12-8-08

12-8-08 Southeast elevation-door entablature 2/11





HO-976 Clarksville Nigh School 12240 Clarksville Pake (Pt 108) Thward to Md. Ken Slart, plotographer 12.8.08 Southeast & northeast elevations





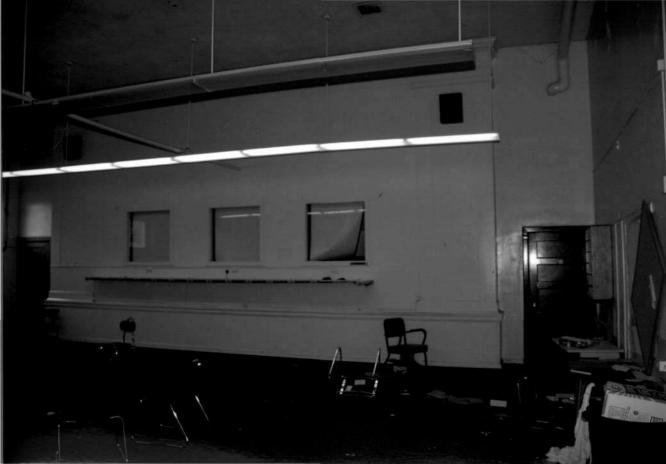
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Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike (Rt 108) Howard Co. Md. Ken Short, photographer 12-8-08 60f 11





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HO-976 Clarksville Heigh School 12240 Clarksville Pike (Et 108) Howard Co Md. Ken Stort, glotographer 12-8.08 Isterior, classroom - view north





HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike (Rt. 108) Howard G. Ad Ken Short, photographer 12-8-08 Interior, starrivay





HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Peter (Rt 108) Howard B. nd. Ken Skort, platographer 12-8-08 Interior, second storey center room (library) - view south



HO-976 Clarksville High School 12240 Clarksville Pike (At 108) Haward Co Dd Ken Slort, plotographer 12-8-08 Shop bldg. - Southwest & Southeast 11 of 11 11 of 11

