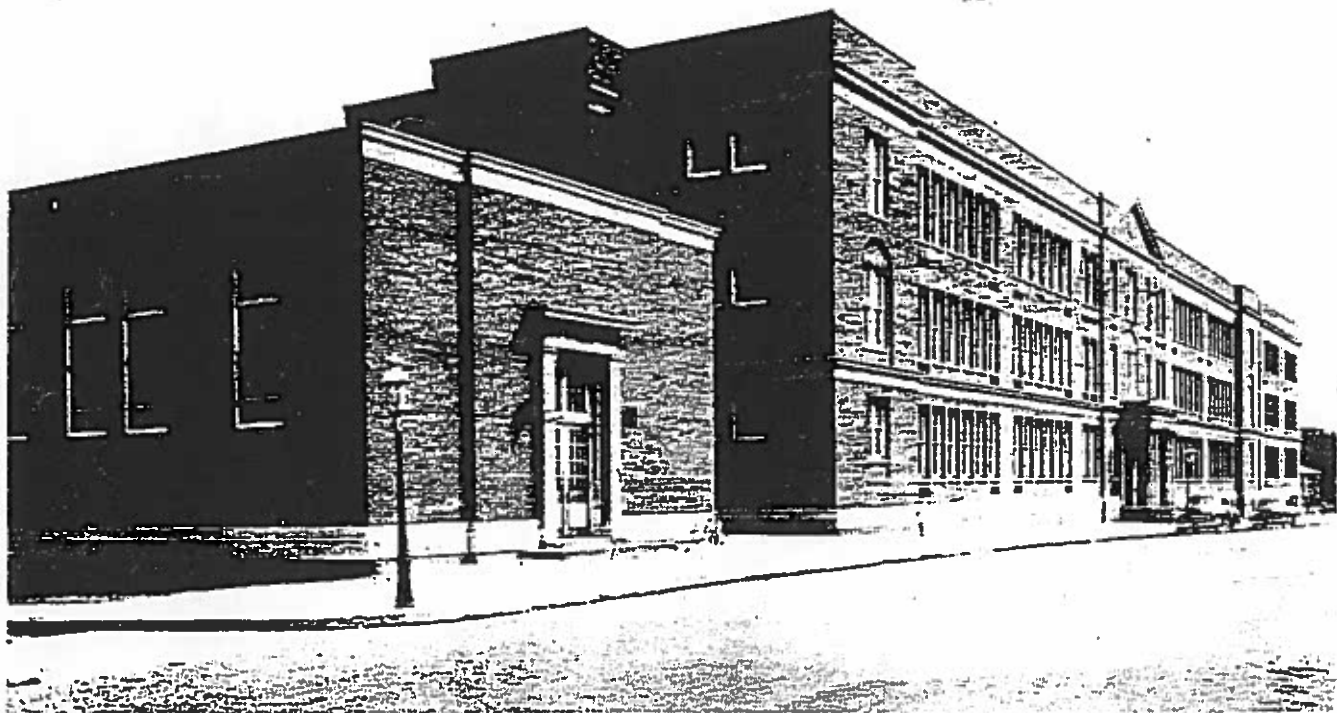


Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School #122

Landmark Designation Report
September 14, 1999 Commission Hearing
For the Baltimore City Commission For
And Architectural Preservation



Front (south) elevation of building on Preston Street near Druid
Hill Avenue.

Staff Recommendation

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School #122

The Commission Approves the landmark designation of the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School #122 because it meets criteria one because it dates from a particular period having a significant character, interest, or culture of the City of Baltimore. The Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School built in 1926 is the first elementary school built for African-American Children by the Baltimore City Board of Education. This school was built 59 years after the first funding for African American education and 97 years after the establishment of public education in Baltimore

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School #122
Landmark Designation Report
September 14, 1999 Commission Hearing
For the Baltimore City Commission for Historical
And Architectural Preservation**

The Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School #122, located at 501 W. Preston Street between Druid Hill and Pennsylvania Avenues, meets Baltimore City's Landmark designation criteria one of the Commission's Standards for Landmark Designation:

"Dates from a particular period having a significant character, interest, or value, as part of the development, heritage, or culture of the City of Baltimore".

The Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School built in 1926 is the first elementary school built for African-American Children by the Baltimore City Board of Education. This school was built 59 years after the first funding for African American education and 97 years after the establishment of public education in Baltimore. Today, the school stands as a stable institution in the neighborhood.

General History

(History prepared by Pearl Moulton and Edna Dukes White)

The earliest legislation with reference to public schools in Baltimore was in 1826 at which time an Act was passed by the General Assembly of Maryland, authorizing the Mayor and City Council to establish public schools in the City and to levy and collect taxes as might be necessary for their support.

On January 17, 1827 the City adopted the above Act of the General Assembly. No further action was taken during that year toward organizing the schools, but on March 8, 1828 an ordinance was adopted creating a Board of Commissioners of Public Schools.

Following the appropriation of funds, on July 21, 1829 the Board resolved to establish four schools, two in the Eastern Section and two in the Western section of the City. On September 21, 1829 the first public school in Baltimore was opened on Eutaw Street between Saratoga and Mulberry Streets in the Basement of a Church. In 1830, the first public school building was erected at the corner of Aisquith and Pitt (now Fayette) streets.

Previous to 1867, the City had made no provision for the education of African-American children. In 1867 an ordinance providing for the education of African-American children in the City of Baltimore was introduced. It reads as follows:

Section I. Be it enacted and ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, that From and after the passage of this ordinance, it shall be the duty of the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Baltimore, to proceed at once to establish as many separate schools for the education of colored children, as may in the judgement of the said Board are necessary.

Section II. And be it enacted and ordained, that the schools established in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance be subject to the same rules and regulations as those now governing the white public schools of the said city, provided that no distinction shall be made in the employment of teachers for the same, on account of color.

The ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore passed at the Session of 1867.

Funds were not appropriated until 1868. On June 28, 1868, the Board of Commissioners organized 10 separate schools for African American Children. They were as follows:

1. Male Colored School #1, 5 Lexington Street
2. Male Colored School #2, East Street near Douglass Street
3. Male Colored School #3, Corner of Montgomery and Howard Streets
4. Male Colored School #4, Biddle Alley near Pennsylvania Avenue.
5. Male Colored School #5, Eastern Avenue near Broadway.
6. Male Colored School #7, Raborg Street West of Fremont Avenue.
7. Female Colored School #1, 9 Lexington Street.
8. Female Colored School #2, East Street near Douglass St.
9. Female Colored School #3, Montgomery Street Corner of Howard Street.
10. Female Colored School #4, Orchard Street near Druid Hill Avenue.

Before this ordinance, organization of schools for African American children was done mainly by African American Churches and private institutions.

SUMMARY

Organized public schools for white children began in 1829. The first public school for white children was erected in 1830 at the corner of Aisquith and Pitt Streets. One year after the organizations of White schools.

Organized public schools for colored children began 1868, after the Civil War and 39 years after white public school organization.

Twenty-one years after colored schools were organized and sixty years after white schools were organized, colored teachers were appointed to colored schools in Baltimore in 1889. Ten in number.

History of the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School #122

Baltimore City had erected no new school buildings subsequent to 1913 until 1921. In the meantime the school population had been growing very rapidly and the number of pupils on a part-time schedule had increased significantly. The colored schools were hit the hardest with the continuously increasing numbers of students, which necessitated part-time classed.

The Strayer School survey of 1920-1921 indicated that a building program was needed. An enabling Act was passed by the State Legislature in 1922 and ratified by the people at the election of November 7, 1923.

Under the provisions of the Act the School Board and the Public Improvement Commission working together formulated what has been called Building Program #1 in which 10 new schools buildings were to be erected. School #122 was the tenth of the original ten building projects which was scheduled to be erected under a \$21,000,000 loan.

The contract for School #122 was awarded to Mason, Curley and Brady on April 7, 1926. The cost of the building \$327,000. The building was completed on January 31, 1927. Pupil Capacity was 934.

The Platoon school was the new methodology of progressive ideology of the 1920s. This form of education swept through Baltimore.

The Purpose was to give without increase cost an enriched curriculum in line with progressive education. It was shown that its greatest value was in the wider educational opportunities offered.

"The Whole Child Goes to School" was the method's catch phrase, which entailed that the child learns through work-study and play. The Platoon type school organization permitted a balanced curriculum in which work and study and play was recognized as factors in education.

In addition the organization was divided into two groups which alternated between "homerooms" where academic work in the fundamentals was carried on, and special activities rooms where instruction was given in art, music, physical education, vocational subjects, science and other forms of expressional or social activities. The Platoon method was emphasized the 3R's in addition to special subjects in a special room with special equipment by a teacher especially qualified.

In Baltimore while many cities introduced the Platoon organization in schools, and many cities were moving rapidly toward a city-wide adoption of the plan, Baltimore moved conservatively and had very limited number of schools on this basis. School #13 Patterson Park Avenue and McElderry Street was the pioneer school in this field. In September 1926 the new Canton School Fait and Linwood Avenues opened as a Platoon School. This was the first school in Baltimore built from plans designed to house a work-study-play program.

The curriculum plan for School #122 included pre-vocational courses designed for the needs of colored children. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School #122

functioned as a Platoon School when it opened in September 1927. Mr. Douglass Johnson was the first principal. Platoon classes began with the second grade through the 6th grade

The Public Improvement Commission was notified that the name of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School should be used for the new colored elementary school at Preston and Walnut Streets.

The need for a gymnasium in elementary school was deemed necessary. Space for a gymnasium was not included in the original plan for School #122. An addition to the school was planned. The Board of School Commissioner formally approved the plans and specifications for the addition to School #122. The addition was completed in November 1931. The space, which currently houses the Library, is the space, which was the original gymnasium. This area was also used for the school bank.

In 1947 to meet the needs of the results in migration and birth of Children during the war years, to quonset buildings were erected by the Federal Works Agency on the grounds of #122.

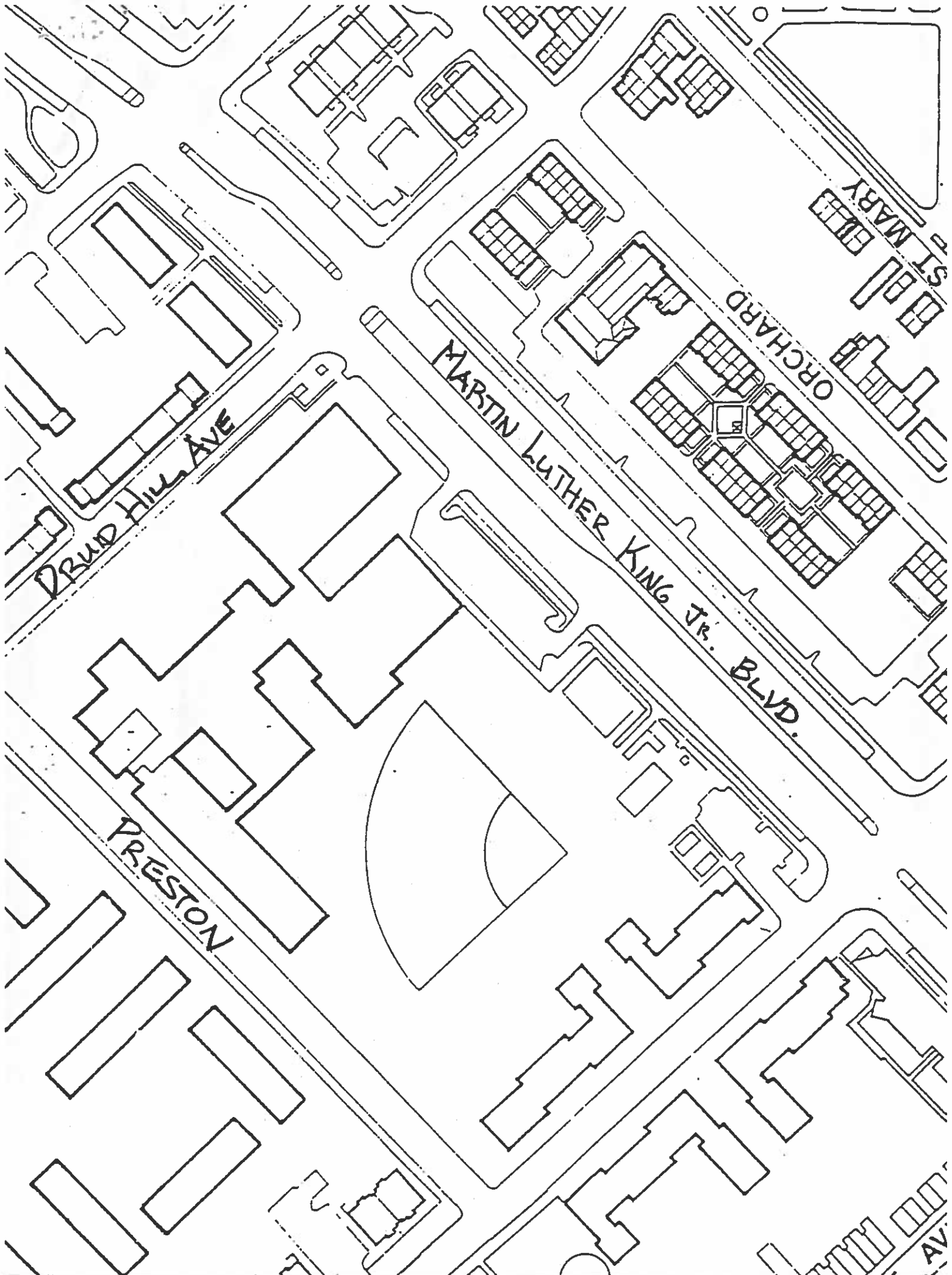
In 1950 four metal portables were erected on the grounds of School #122. This was a further effort to relieve congestion, over crowdedness and part-timeness created from the war effort.

During the late fifties and early sixties #122 school population apparently declined. The data indicated that children were bused from other areas to #122 during this time.

Many principles served the school during its 65 years. One principal, Charles Jones served 32 years of ½ the years of the school tenure, 1933 to 1965.

The School is a massive three story building almost a block long with three rows of 60 windows. The structure is made of red brick and sits upon a stone base. The main entrance is styled with a neocolonial cross-gable and a columned entryway. A band course separates the building from the first and second floors. The cornice is rather simple, mimicking the band course and is topped with a solid brick parapet.

In conclusion, the building meets criteria one as being a reminder of the educational history of Baltimore. The building is also a reminder of the Historic African-American presence in West Baltimore. This building represents the continued persistence of civil rights for the appropriate and equal education of all of Baltimore's children.



DRUID HILL AVE

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.

PRESTON

ORCHARD

ST. MARY

AV