

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Lord Baltimore Elementary School  
other names/site number S-9133.001-.002

**2. Location**

street & number 120 Atlantic Avenue (Route 26)  not for publication  
city or town Ocean View  vicinity  
state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19970

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	4	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	4	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

EDUCATION: school (gym)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

EDUCATION: school (gym)

EDUCATION: school (classroom trailer)

EDUCATION: school (classroom trailer)

EDUCATION: school (classroom trailer)

EDUCATION: school (storage)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK: Flemish bond

roof SLATE

other WOOD

CEMENT

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1931-1950

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Minter Homes Corporation (partial; see Statement of Significance)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 10.15 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | | 2 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | |  
Zone Easting Northing

3 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | |  
Zone Easting Northing

2 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 7 | |

4 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lara Otis/Historic Preservation Specialist

organization McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc. date July 2003 (Revised December 2003)

street & number 2001 Market St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor telephone 215-592-4200

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19103

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Indian River School District

street & number 31 Hoosier St., RR 2 Box 156 telephone 302-436-1000

city or town Selbyville state DE zip code 19975

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Lord Baltimore Elementary School      Sussex County, Delaware

**Description**

Lord Baltimore Elementary School (Tax Parcel 1-34-12-424.00) is a c. 1931, two-story, fifteen-bay brick institutional school building with an asphalt-shingle side-gable roof with hipped roof wings at the east and west ends. It is believed to be a Delaware School Auxiliary Association (DSAA) commissioned building. This school originally functioned as the high school for the Indian River School District.

*Central entrance.* The central entrance projects a few feet north of the main block and is one bay wide. On the first floor it has a contemporary double-leaf entrance with aluminum and glazed door with a single light transom above; it has a limestone surround with pilasters and a broken pediment. Above the window is an inset plaque with the name of the school. The second story has a wood Palladian window. This entire length of the school has brick quoins and is capped with a front gable; the wood cornice has partial returns. Above the entrance bay at the ridgeline is a wood square lantern with an oculus and balustrade with urns capped by a wood octagonal cupola with a weathervane. This original section of the building was constructed in 1931, per a datestone on the front façade.

*Main block.* Flanking the central entrance are two stories and two bays of paired wood windows with 8/8 sashes and paneled wood transoms. Four sets of windows form each of the two bays. Central limestone keystones cap the window on the first floor while the second floor windows about the wood cornice. A brick beltcourse runs between the first and second floors. A limestone beltcourse runs under the first floor windows.

*Wings.* The two-story wings project several feet north of the main block. Each wing forms one bay. The first floor on each end has one set of tripartite arch-head windows with wood sashes; the arches have the original wood infill. A brick beltcourse lies above the windows and a limestone beltcourse runs below them. The corners of the wings have brick quoins.

*West façade.* This façade is three bays deep. The central bay projects a few feet from the main block and is one bay wide; it has a double-leaf entrance on the ground floor, a wood sash 8/8 window on the first floor, and a wood sash 6/6 window on the second floor. The projection has brick quoins. Flanking the projection are three pairs of windows; the sashes are the same configuration as on the main façade. A brick beltcourse runs between the first and second floors; a limestone beltcourse runs under the first floor windows. The wing on this façade has a one-story flat-roof addition; there is one window in the same style as on the main façade and a brick beltcourse runs above the window just below the roofline.

*c. 1950 Addition (main façade).* To the east of the main building there is an Art Deco-inspired two-story, three-bay, brick addition with a flat roof. The main (north) façade features a slight central projection with brick quoins in which each of the three bays are contained. The central bay also projects slightly and has paired wood windows with 6/6 sash; a wood panel connects the first and second floor windows. Flanking the central bay are wood windows with 6/6 sash. Each window has a brick jack arch and limestone sills. The roofline has wood coping. The west façade has one bay of single wood windows, one bay of tripartite multi-light windows, and

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

**Lord Baltimore Elementary School**      **Sussex County, Delaware**

**Description (continued)**

one, two-story, five-sided, brick, westward projection. To the west of the addition is a link building to the main building that also spans a driveway. It is brick with a flat roof with an opening on the north side.

*Gymnasium (main façade).* To the west of the main building is a two-story, three-bay, brick gymnasium with a segmental arch roof with a partial wood cornice return, built c. 1950, per a datestone. Brick piers delineate the bays and the corners have brick quoins. The east bay of the main (north) façade has a double-leaf entrance with wood and glazed doors and a wood Colonial Revival surround; on the second floor there is a wood 6/6 window. The central bay has a circular insignia on the second floor and a louvered round opening above it. The west bay mirrors the east bay.

*Sidewalks.* Construction plans for the Delaware State Highway Department's Contract No. 322 indicate that 5-foot sidewalks existed in front of the school and 4-foot sidewalks were constructed to tie in to the existing ones in or around 1933. The original sidewalks can be seen in front of neighboring buildings but appear to have been replaced in front of the school; however, the footprint remains the same. As a result, the sidewalks were an original design element and are therefore included within the boundary.

Three modern educational trailers are seen south of the original core of the school. These single-story trailers feature a low-pitched asphalt-shingle gable roof, one-over-one vinyl sash windows, and aluminum exterior siding. Physical evidence suggests these trailers were likely brought to the school c. 1995 as overflow classroom space. These are non-contributing features on the property.

Southeast of the c. 1950 addition to the school is a mid-twentieth century barn. This structure is one and one-half stories in height with an asphalt-shingle, side gable roof, exposed wood rafters, and a wood weatherboard exterior. This structure is likely used to house maintenance equipment for the school, and is a non-contributing feature on the property.

A baseball field and playground are located south of the school; a paved parking lot is located north of the baseball field. The front of the original core of the school features a concrete sidewalk and landscaped yard.

**Statement of Significance**

The Lord Baltimore Elementary School is significant under Criterion A (significance as an educational institution, commissioned by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association and Pierre S. du Pont) and Criterion C (architectural significance as a Colonial Revival school). The Period of Significance for the Lord Baltimore Elementary School is c. 1931 (when the core of the school was initially constructed) to c. 1950, when the educational wing and gymnasium were constructed. Commissioned by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association (DSAA), as established by Pierre S. du Pont, the Lord Baltimore School was constructed in 1931, with some pre-fabricated schoolrooms provided by the West Virginia saw mill of Minter Homes Corporation.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

**Lord Baltimore Elementary School**      **Sussex County, Delaware**

### Statement of Significance (continued)

Additions were made to the original portion of the school in 1950 for an educational wing and a gymnasium. The school maintains a relatively high degree of integrity, with its restrained Colonial Revival style evidenced by its balanced symmetry, side-gable roof, pedestrian sidewalk and trees, and original materials, design, feeling and setting, free of unsympathetic modern alterations and additions along the front (north) façade. The Lord Baltimore School also illustrates educational trends in Delaware. While the Lord Baltimore Elementary School is not directly affiliated with people notable in local, state, or national history (Criterion B), it is nonetheless an important example of a du Pont school, constructed by the DSAA in Delaware for white Delaware schoolchildren. The Lord Baltimore School is an excellent example of the building campaign that took place over the entire state of Delaware during the early twentieth century to improve the state's educational facilities. Owing to prior ground disturbance, there is little probability that new information will result from any archaeological testing performed in the vicinity of the property (Criterion D).

The school is still used for its original purpose, and also maintains its integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and setting. The c. 1950 alterations and additions are sympathetic and do not detract from the core building; the main building, wing, and gymnasium are all contributing elements on the property. The Lord Baltimore School also exhibits landscaping and a suburban feel that are typical of the Colonial Revival style in the area, such as its front pedestrian sidewalk and mature trees; the sidewalk and landscaping are also contributing elements on the property. The school property also contains trailers housing extra classrooms and a barn used for storage; these are non-contributing elements on the property.

### Historical Background

Baltimore Hundred is located along the southeastern coast of Sussex County, Delaware. As part of both the Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp (Eastern) Zone and the Coastal Zone as identified in the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Plan*, Baltimore Hundred's history is tied to the natural features of the landscape. Scattered European settlements (Dutch, English, and Scotch-Irish) appeared in Delaware near coastal bays and river inlets during the seventeenth century; although Native American groups continued to live in the area, for the most part their way of life had been dramatically altered by the middle part of the eighteenth century. Baltimore Hundred's boundary was much contested through the eighteenth century, with both the colonies of Delaware and Maryland claiming the area; it was not until 1775 that Worcester County, Maryland released its claims to the land and ceded the territory to Delaware (Scharf, p. 1339). Through the late eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries, in spite of the introduction of railroads and the development of various towns and villages, Baltimore Hundred retained a predominately agricultural tradition. What little formal education Baltimore Hundred inhabitants received usually came through churches and preachers (Collins & Eby, p. 204).

By the early twentieth century, the inadequacies of the Delaware school system were manifest for both African-American and white school children. While the Public School Law of 1875 had enacted mandatory taxation practices, established county and state school boards, and "provided for the fairer distribution of school funds

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

**Lord Baltimore Elementary School      Sussex County, Delaware**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

for the 'colored' population" the school system of Baltimore Hundred nonetheless languished (Jicha, p. 94).

A 1921 school law passed by the State Board of Education mandated that school districts must maintain "separate schools for Negroes over the entire state" (Federal Writers' Project, p. 118). Pierre S. du Pont took it upon himself to commence a school building program throughout the First State for African-American children, then later for white school children (Jicha, p. 94). Making a contribution of over \$2,500,000 for the construction of new schools, du Pont appointed Dr. Joseph H. Odell to administer the funds through the Delaware School Auxiliary Association (DSAA) (Jicha, p. 95). These new school buildings, "sited on two-acre landscaped lots with walks, drives and playground equipment" were kept simple with a "restrained Colonial Revival" style, and were designed to insure "maximum efficiency as an educational facility and community center" (Jicha, p. 95). While the DSAA sought matching funds from local communities for the funding of the construction of new school buildings, many districts were unwilling or financially unable to contribute the necessary money for building campaigns (Taggart, p. 144). The Lord Baltimore Elementary School, situated in Ocean View, is a c. 1931 Colonial Revival example of this type of consolidated du Pont school for white children. Since Ocean View and Millville had limited economic resources that would allow for school bonding, the DSAA assumed the full cost of \$60,000 for the twelve-room school structure (Taggart, p. 144). In a bid to cut costs, the DSAA ordered prefabricated school rooms from the West Virginia mill of Minter Homes Corporation, and hired its own workmen, bringing in external labor only when needed (Taggart, p. 144). Completed in less than six months in 1931, the Lord Baltimore School accommodated white school children from first grade through high school (Taggart, pp.144-145). Of all of the educational reforms in the state of Delaware in the twentieth century, none achieved greater import than Pierre du Pont's construction of new school structures "for every white pupil in the state" (Taggart, p. 141).

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 5

---

**Lord Baltimore Elementary School      Sussex County, Delaware**

**Bibliography**

Ames, David, et al. *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan*. Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware, June 1989.

Collins, Mary & Evelyn Eby. *140 Years of Rainbows: A Book about Mariner's Bethel United Methodist Church and the Local Area*. Dover, DE: Dover Litho Printing Company, 1998.

Federal Writers' Project. *Delaware: A Guide to the First State*. Compiled and written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Delaware, American Guide Series, Sponsored by Edward W. Cooch, Lieutenant Governor. New York: The Viking Press, 1938.

Jicha, Hubert, Bernard L. Herman & Judith Quinn. *National Register Eligibility Evaluation: Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware*. Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware, 1988.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware 1609-1888*. Philadelphia, PA: L.J. Richards & Company, 1888.

State of Delaware State Highway Department, *Plan for Construction of Contract No. 322, 1933*. Delaware Department of Transportation files.

Taggart, Robert J. *Private Philanthropy and Public Education: Pierre S. du Pont and the Delaware Schools 1890-1940*. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 1988.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 6

---

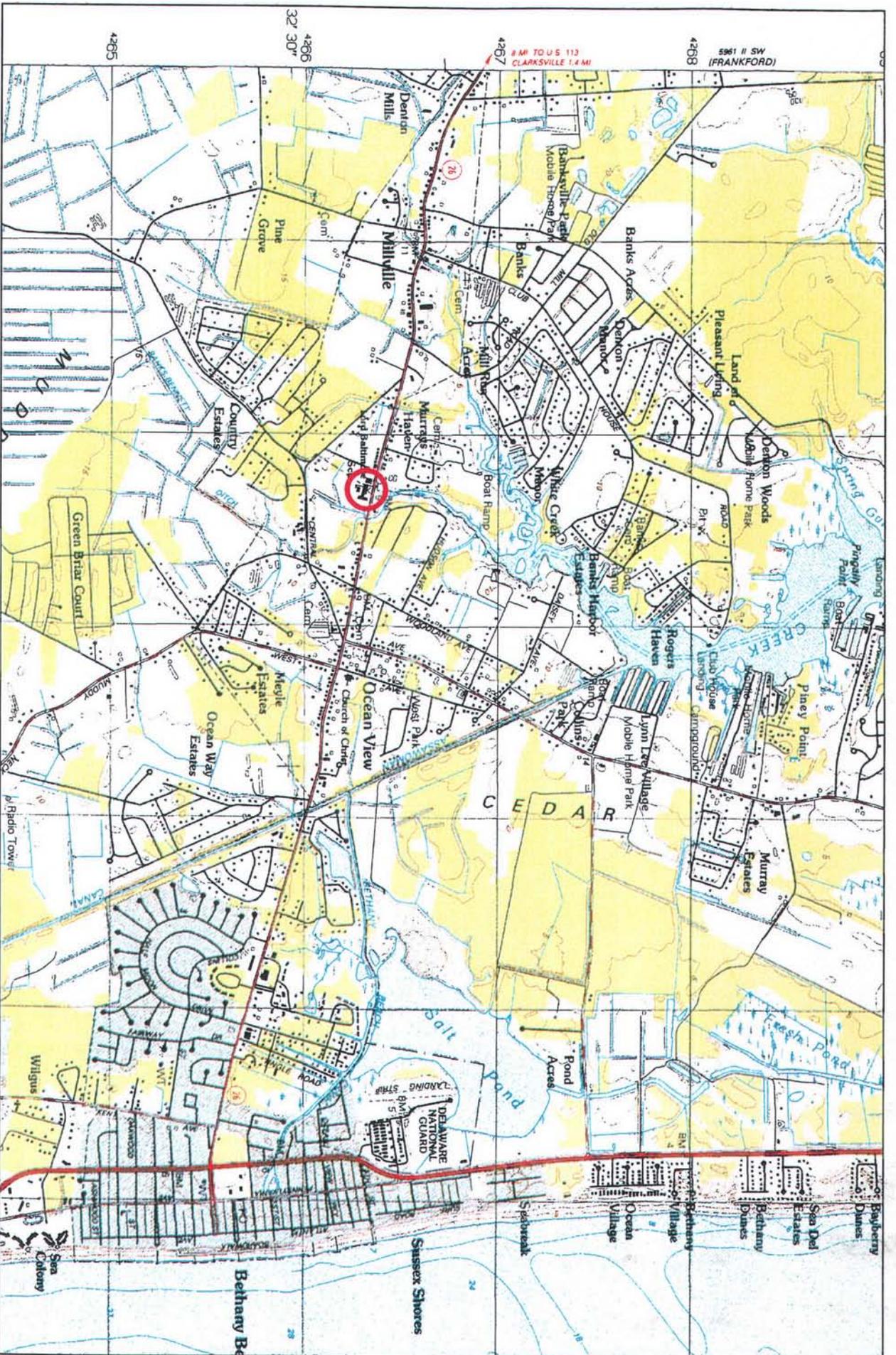
**Lord Baltimore Elementary School      Sussex County, Delaware**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Lord Baltimore Elementary School follows Sussex County, Delaware tax parcel 1-34-12-424.00, including the sidewalks and up to the edge of the curb along Route 26.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary sufficiently encompasses the historic acreage of the school, sidewalk, playground and buildings to maintain the setting and feeling of the Colonial Revival du Pont school. This boundary was prepared in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the National Register Bulletin: "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties."



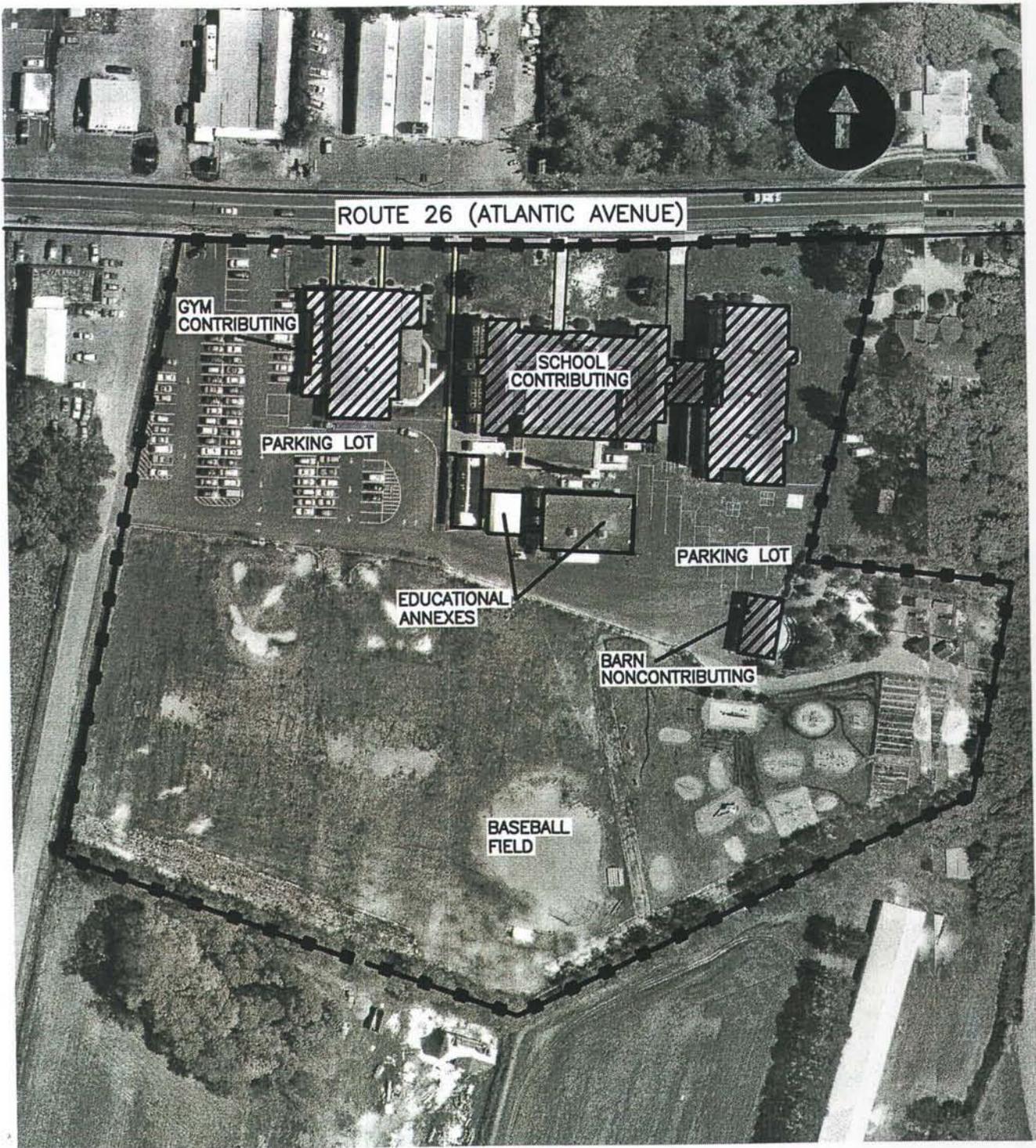
Lord Baltimore Elementary School  
 120 Atlantic Avenue  
 Sussex County, DE

Zone: 18  
 UTM: N-227602  
 E-60572



Bethany Beach, Delaware  
 USGS Quadrangle  
 1984, Photorevised 1991

Lord Baltimore Elementary School  
Sussex County, DE



APPROX. SCALE 1"=125'

	BUILDING 50 YEARS OLD OR OLDER
	BUILDING LESS THAN 50 YEARS OLD
	NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY (FOLLOWS TAX PARCEL BOUNDARY)



Photo 1: Front (north) and side (west) facades, facing southeast.



Photo 2: Rear view, facing northeast.



Photo 3: Rear view, facing northeast.



Photo 4: Gymnasium, front (north) façade, facing south.



Photo 5: Gymnasium, rear (south) façade, facing north.

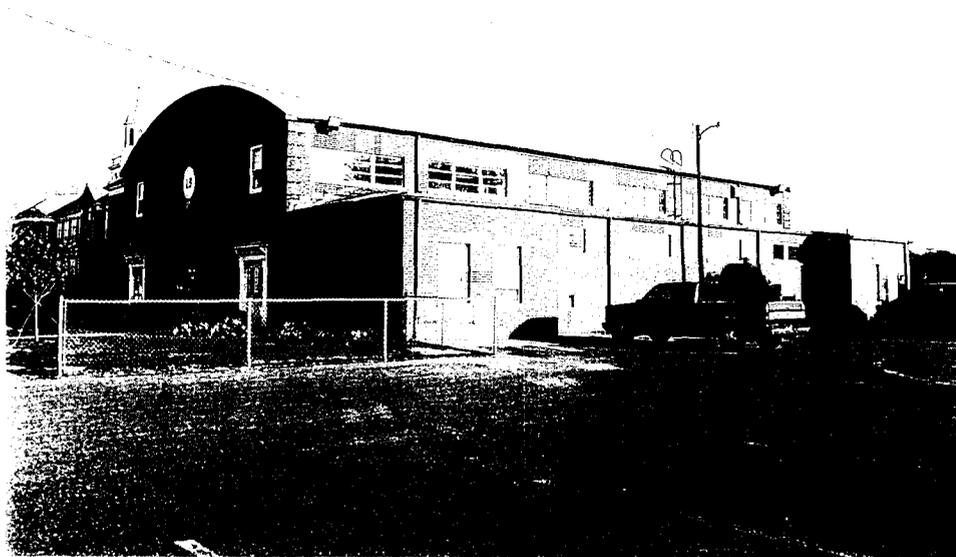


Photo 6: Gymnasium, side (west) façade, facing east.



Photo 7: Passageway and wing, facing southeast.



Photo 8: Wing, north and east façades, facing southwest.



Photo 9: Barn, facing east.

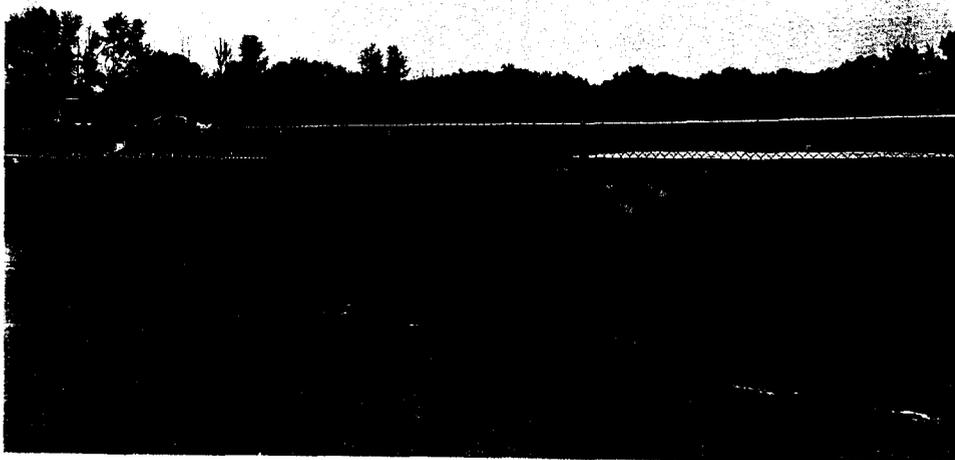


Photo 10: Grounds and playground, facing southeast.