



The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
Planning Department

1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774 • pgplanning.org • Maryland Relay 7-1-1

DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

VIA: Thomas W. Gross, Supervisor
Kacy Rohn, HPC Liaison
Historic Preservation Section
Countywide Planning Division

FROM: Jennifer Stabler, PhD, Planner IV
Tyler Smith, Planner II
Historic Preservation Section
Countywide Planning Division

RE: Evaluation for Historic Site Designation: Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation

Historic Resource	Greenbelt Middle School
MIHP Number	67-004-06
Address	8950 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Owner	Board of Education
Environmental Setting	32.87 acres
Description	Tax Map 26/Grid B4/Parcel 10

Procedural Background

February 18, 1997	Greenbelt, Maryland Historic District designated a National Historic Landmark
March 2013	Greenbelt Middle School designated a County Historic Resource by the 2013 <i>Approved Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment</i> .
April 11, 2024	The City of Greenbelt submitted a request for historic site evaluation.
May 3, 2024	The property was posted “at least 14 days in advance,” according to the provisions of the Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Ordinance (Subtitle 29-118) and the Prince George’s County Zoning Ordinance (Subtitle 27-125.03). Evidence of sign posting and written notice to the property owner are attached.
May 7, 2024	The property owner, the adjacent property owners, and other interested parties were mailed written notice of the time, date, and location of the public hearing on the application.
May 21, 2024	Date of HPC public hearing.

Findings

Description: The original school building, first known as the Greenbelt High School, was completed in 1938. It was constructed in a minimalist Art Moderne style with 12”-thick brick walls on concrete footings and using glass block on the interior in stairwells and corridors. Today the building is an assemblage of one and two-story white brick blocks with primarily flat roofs, reflecting at least six phases of construction between 1938 and 1969. The building is generally organized around an interior courtyard with a west wing that steps down in elevation as it follows the topography of the site.

The school building consists of: 1) the original building, completed in 1938, with a cafeteria, and science laboratory; 2) a two-story addition to the south completed in 1945, which added five classrooms, a second science laboratory, a principal’s office, health office, a kitchen, and a multi-purpose room; 3) a two-story, gable-roofed, brick gymnasium with wood trusses, added in 1953 to the north of the original building; 4) a one story addition with metal panel walls to the south and a brick kitchen addition on the west side of the building, completed in 1957; 5) a two-story brick addition built in 1961, which enclosed the interior courtyard; and 6) a two- and three-story brick addition built in 1969, which extended the building down the slope to the west; a single-story wing was also added to the north of the building at the same time but was demolished in 2015/2016. These last two additions added 14 classrooms and a new cafeteria, and enlarged the library and faculty room.

The oldest portion of the building, dating to 1938, displays minimalist Art Moderne detailing including the emphasis of horizontal lines and grooves using corbeling. The original, recessed front entrance is flanked by three receding tiers of masonry, and a discreet steel lintel. The additions, built in the Art Moderne style with International-style influences, are primarily rectangular, flat-roofed masses emphasized with a narrow coping of white or dark green color. The 1953 addition is distinguished by its gable roof and houses the gymnasium. Brick details found on the later additions echo original design elements: the 1945 and 1953 additions use brick corbeling to emphasize horizontal lines, and the 1961 and 1969 additions include brick lattice work around the entrances.

Windows primarily consist of a variety of metal casement windows and glass block. Doors are primarily metal and not original, although certain doors in the 1945, 1961, and 1969 buildings appear to be original or have retained their original configuration with transoms and sidelights. Notable elements include three large vertical glass block sections of wall in the east gable end of the gymnasium and the vertically oriented, ten-light, metal frame windows above masonry sills on the west elevation of the 1961 addition. The lowest two lights comprise an operable hopper and the windows feature an unusual asymmetrical pattern in which vertical muntins divide the horizontal panes at alternating $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ intervals, creating a rhythmic visual effect. This general lighting pattern is referenced in windows of five horizontally oriented lights of similar proportions in the 1969 addition. The windows in the 1938 and 1945 portions of the building, originally metal casement windows with operable hoppers, have been replaced. Window- and wall-mounted air conditioning units have been installed throughout the school.*Setting:*

Setting: The school was originally sited to be equidistant from the Greenbelt Commercial Center to the east and the town of Berwyn Heights to the west. It sits near the top of a hill with a view to the west. The property is bounded by Breezewood Drive on the north, Edmonston Road on the east, Greenbelt Road on the south, and Beltway Plaza to the west. The 32.87-acre parcel includes the historic school building, situated in the southeast portion of the property, as well as athletic fields, a bus lot between the historic school and Beltway Plaza to the west, and the new Greenbelt Middle School (built in 2012) to the north along Breezewood Drive.

The east elevation, comprising the first four building phases, faces Edmonston Road. It remains the most formal and reads as the front of the building. The 1938, 1945, and 1953 building phases have all retained

their own front entrances. The 1953 addition is used as the main entrance today and has a covered walkway connecting it to the pick-up and drop-off vehicle entrance.

Before the construction of the Capital Beltway and the extension of Kenilworth Avenue, the school was connected to the rest of the planned community of Greenbelt by a wooded trail that skirted Greenbelt Lake. The trail's underpass can still be seen under Edmonston Road near the school's entrance drive and is now overgrown with vegetation and closed off with a chain link fence. The area to the west of the school alongside Greenbelt Road was imagined as "wooded valley" and a remnant of a wooded area remains separating the school from the bus lot onsite. To the north of the school were athletic fields, some of which remain today.

The 1938-1969 school structure, Edmonston Road underpass, associated paths, and natural areas are contributing elements to the Greenbelt Middle School Historic Resource.

History:

Development of Greenbelt

The 1935-46 development of Greenbelt, Maryland represents the first, government-sponsored, planned community in the United States built on "garden city" principles and embodies the regional planning principles and architectural ideals of the mid-1930s. Three "greenbelt towns" were built by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal government along garden city lines to respond to the Depression and a housing crisis in American cities. The town of Greenbelt, Maryland, the first, largest, and most complete of the three towns, was an attempt to build a large-scale, scientifically planned suburban community that would decentralize the population of Washington, D.C. The greenbelt towns were comprehensive in scope, featuring housing, commerce, schools, and recreation. Their architectural treatments varied depending on the town, but Greenbelt's was functional and modern, with the community buildings receiving a more conscious stylistic treatment. Today, the greenbelt towns remain one of the boldest examples of public housing on a community scale ever undertaken in this country. Greenbelt's significance can be felt in the emergence of regional planning as a discipline, and in the widespread construction of planned communities after the 1940s.

Greenbelt was established as an all-white community. Research to date indicates that African American families did not begin moving into Greenbelt until the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Greenbelt High School, within the racially segregated Prince George's County school system, served a white student body throughout its early existence.

Greenbelt High School (1937 – 1951)

Construction of the Greenbelt High School began in 1937. High School students attended classes in the community grammar school until the new high school building was completed in April 1938. Construction of the building cost the Federal Government \$142,000. The Farm Security Administration allotted \$26,000 per year to operate the school, while Prince George's County contributed \$9,000 per year. The costs of operating the school were split between the federal government and Prince George's County because the school was on federal land, but students from several of the surrounding communities, including Beltsville and Berwyn also attended the school. At the time the school was built, the town of Greenbelt was still under the control of the federal government, it had not been assessed, and was not paying county taxes. Therefore, a dispute arose over the amount of money the county and the federal government should pay for its operation.

The high school building could accommodate 300 pupils and offered standard high school subjects. Although the school opened at the beginning of the 1938-1939 school year, the lunchroom was not completed until March of 1939. Student Council was one of the first student institutions to be formed in

the school. A major concern of parents was the safety of pupils walking to school; no school bus service was initially provided, as there was a dispute over who was going to pay for it.

Almost immediately, more room was needed for the students attending the school in 1938. The funds were not allotted due to the County's Board of Education being unable to obtain a clear title to the property from the Federal Government's Farm Security Administration. The first graduating class of 1939 included 23 students.

Three course tracks were offered in the school: 1) academic, for those planning to continue their studies at an institution of higher learning; 2) commercial, for those planning to enter business; and 3) general, to prepare students for trades, such as nursing, laboratory assistance, and general vocations.

In 1941, a team of experts of the county school system, the college of education at the University of Maryland and the State Department of Education compiled a report that concluded that a drastic reorganization of the school system was needed in Prince George's County. Members of this committee were appointed by Nicholas Orem, the county Superintendent of Schools. The report recommended a reorganization of the school system that was based on the premise that it should have six years of primary education, three years of junior high school, and three years of high school. The system at the time lacked a junior high school element. In the report, the Greenbelt High School was recommended to be converted to a junior high school with 250 pupils.

In December 1941, the Prince George's County School Board estimated that a 10-room addition to the Greenbelt High School would cost \$230,000. In June 1941, the Prince George's County Board of Education applied for \$250,000 from the Federal Works Administration to build a new elementary school in Greenbelt, and an addition to the Greenbelt High School. The Prince George's County's Board of Education noted in June 1941 that the expansion of the schools in Greenbelt would be necessary due to the construction of 1,000 new defense houses in Greenbelt, which would double the town's population within a year. The superintendent of the county schools, Nicholas Orem, noted that federal funds would have to be used for school construction at Greenbelt as the county school board could not build on sites that it did not own. At that time the land was still owned by the federal government and the Greenbelt elementary and high schools were operated under a contract between authorities in Greenbelt and the Prince George's Commissioners. It was estimated that the cost of the high school addition would be \$100,000.

In June 1944, the Federal Works Agency approved a contract for the E.L. Daniels Company of Arlington, Virginia, to build an addition onto the high school for \$99,224. The addition was to be two stories high, constructed of brick and reinforced concrete, and be fireproof. The addition was to include four classrooms, one science room, one multi-purpose room with attached kitchen, a first aid room, a teachers' room, administrative offices, and a storeroom. Construction on the addition started in August 1944 and was expected to be completed by early December. The new wing was built in the shape of an L and was joined to the left-hand side of the old building. The new wing was described in the December 9, 1944, *Greenbelt Cooperator* as follows: "At the end of this new wing is a multipurpose room, with the office on the left and classrooms on the right. The school store, kitchen, and first aid room will also be located here. No space for lockers is provided in the new building. Upstairs will be four classrooms." When students returned to school in September 1944, enrollment had reached 408 students.

In May 1945, the Prince George's County School Board established a 12-year system for the white and Black schools in the county. At that time, Maryland was one of only three states that did not have a 12-year school system at public expense. The change meant that approximately 6,000 students in the seventh and eighth grades would receive an extra year of high school instruction. Due to this change, the Greenbelt High School would receive eighth grade students from Beltsville School and seventh and eighth grade students from the Greenbelt and Berwyn Elementary Schools.

At the beginning of the 1945-1946 school year, Greenbelt High School had an enrollment of 570 students. Of these, there were 232 students in the 7th and 8th grades, comprising the new junior high school system. The new wing was in use for the first time and included five classrooms, a combination auditorium and gymnasium, and an office. The teaching staff numbered 26, being an increase of 10 over the previous year.

In June 1949, the Prince George's County Board of Education, which had been operating the school, purchased the building and land from the federal government for \$54,360. In June 1951, the last Senior High class graduated, and the school was converted into a Junior High School.

The 1951 graduating class included 103 students. When the High Point High School building was completed in 1951, Greenbelt students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades began to attend that school, along with students from Berwyn Heights and Beltsville.

Greenbelt Junior High School (1951 – 2012)

The next addition, in 1953, was in the form of a \$170,000 gymnasium with bleachers for seating 500 spectators. In April 1961, the Prince George's County School Board allocated \$422,900 for the renovation of the Greenbelt Junior High School and the addition of 14 classrooms. The low bidder for the project was N.S. Stavrou, Inc. of Washington, DC. This addition was to replace a 10-room temporary annex that was placed on the building. Construction was slated to be completed around February 1962 and included changes to several of the classrooms, as well as the office.

In April 1961, the Prince George's County School Board allocated \$422,900 for the renovation of the Greenbelt Junior High School and the addition of 14 classrooms. The low bidder for the project was N.S. Stavrou, Inc. of Washington, DC. This addition was to replace a 10-room temporary annex that was placed on the building. Construction was slated to be completed around February 1962 and included changes to several of the classrooms, as well as the office.

The third and fourth expansion projects in 1957 and 1961 provided for a maximum enrollment of 925 students. This figure was exceeded by 50 students in 1965. To provide for the steadily increasing enrollment it was necessary during the summer of 1967 to assemble three temporary buildings directly in front of the main building. The enrollment for the 1967-1968 school year was 1,050 students and a faculty of 55 teachers.

The sixth addition in 1969 included 14 classrooms, a new cafeteria and administrative wing, plus enlargement of the library and faculty room, at a cost of \$1,130,000. The building, at this point could accommodate 1,250 – 1,300 students.

Racial Integration

Although the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education* had declared racial segregation in public education to be unconstitutional, most students in Prince George's County continued to attend racially segregated schools into the 1970s. The Prince George's County Board of Education pursued various tactics through the 1950s and 1960s to avoid desegregation, including a "freedom of choice" policy which largely preserved existing racial segregation. The federal Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare paid increasing attention to the county's non-compliance by the late 1960s. A court-ordered desegregation plan, effective January 29, 1973, transferred Black students to the Greenbelt Junior High School from the Thomas J. Pullen Junior High School, which had a 92 percent Black student body.

The principal of Greenbelt Junior High School during the period of racial integration was Francis Ellsworth Furgang, whose family owned Furgang Farm (Historic Site 82A-023) in Cheltenham.

Significance:

The Greenbelt Middle School is located on a discontinuous parcel that comprises part of the Greenbelt National Historic Landmark. The structure's simplified Art Moderne and International-style design emphasizes functionalism, siting, materials and economic constraints, all of which are characteristic of the architecture within the Greenbelt National Historic Landmark. As a whole, Greenbelt is significant for several reasons: as one of three planned communities built through the Federal government's Green Towns Program during the Great Depression; for its status as a model for community planning and design; and for the consistency of its architecture with the overall design principles of the community. The Greenbelt Middle School is an important part of Greenbelt's history. The subject historic resource exemplifies several heritage themes identified in the 2010 *Prince George's County Approved Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, including political history, education, suburban growth, and is a rare example of Art Moderne/International-style architecture within the Inventory of Historic Resources. It is also significant as an extant part of the Greenbelt National Historic Landmark.

Integrity/Degree of Alteration:

The Greenbelt Middle School has retained its essential form as a mid-twentieth century school building, with much of its historic fabric intact. Additions built in 1945, 1953, 1957, 1961, and 1969 follow a similar architectural style and have acquired their own historical significance. The building has retained a cohesive architectural style, maintained its recognizable visual connection with the Greenbelt National Historic Landmark, and continued to serve its historical purpose for approximately eighty-five years. As such, the school retains a moderately high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Historic Preservation Commission Policy #1-87, "Evaluating Integrity, Degree Of Alteration, And Scarcity And Frequency," states that a property's integrity should be considered in the context of the scarcity of the resource type it represents, with a less restrictive standard of integrity applied when few or no other similar properties exist in the Inventory of Historic Resources. Despite Greenbelt's status as a National Historic Landmark, there is only one other structure associated with Greenbelt that is a County-designated Historic Site, Greenbelt Center School (67-004-01). There are three other properties associated with Greenbelt included in the Inventory of Historic Resources: Greenbelt/Walker Family Cemetery (67-004-03a), Greenbelt/Turner Family Cemetery (67-004-03b), and Greenbelt/Hamilton Family Cemetery (67-004-03c); however, these resources predate the purchase of the land by the Resettlement Administration and are not standing structures associated with the planned community. Greenbelt Middle School could be found to have sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an integral part of one of three planned communities built through the Federal government's Green Towns Program during the Great Depression, as a part of Greenbelt's model for community planning and design, and for its architecture, which is consistent with the overall design principles of the community.

Conclusions

1. Staff concludes that the Greenbelt Middle School meets four of the nine criteria of Subtitle 29-104(a):

Historic and Cultural Significance

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| (1)(A)(i) | X | has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the County, State or Nation |
| (1)(A)(ii) | | is the site of a significant historic event |

- (1)(A)(iii) is identified with a person or a group of persons who influenced society
- (1)(A)(iv) **X** exemplifies the cultural, economic, industrial, social, political or historical heritage of the County and its urban and rural communities

Architectural and Design Significance

- (2)(A)(i) **X** embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction
 - (2)(A)(ii) represents the work of a master craftsman, architect or builder
 - (2)(A)(iii) possesses high artistic values
 - (2)(A)(iv) represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
 - (2)(A)(v) **X** represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, or County due to its singular physical characteristics or landscape
2. Staff further concludes that, in weighing both the alterations that have been made to the school and the scarcity of the resource type within the inventory of Historic Resources, the Greenbelt Middle School could be found to possess sufficient integrity to convey, represent, or contain the values and qualities for which it is judged significant.
3. Staff further concludes that, although this property has been identified in the Inventory of Historic Resources as the Greenbelt Middle School, it would be appropriate to update the name of the resource, should it be designated a Historic Site, to the Greenbelt High School to better reflect its historic use and to disambiguate it from the contemporary Greenbelt Middle School (built in 2012) in active use on the same property.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends to the Historic Preservation Commission that Greenbelt High School, Historic Resource 67-004-06, and its approximately 12.6-acre Environmental Setting (part of Tax Map 26, Grid B4, Parcel 10, as shown in Figure 1 of this memorandum), be designated a Prince George’s County Historic Site as meeting the following criteria in Subtitle 29-104(a): (1)(A)(i); (1)(A)(iv); (2)(A)(i); and (2)(A)(v).

Attachments:

- MIHP Form for 67-004-06 (including maps and photographs)
- Historic Site evaluation request letter from City of Greenbelt
- May 3, 2024 Notice announcing May 21, 2024 HPC Public Hearing
- Evidence of sign posting

Evaluation for Historic Site Designation: Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendation

Greenbelt Middle School (Historic Resource 67-004-06)

May 14, 2024

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c:

Owner:

Prince George's County Board of Education

14201 School Lane

Upper Marlboro MD 20772

Municipality:

Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor

Greenbelt City Council

25 Crescent Road

Greenbelt MD 20770

Interested Parties:

Douglas McElrath, Chairman

Prince George's Heritage

4703 Annapolis Road

Bladensburg MD 20710

Jack I. Thompson, Jr., Chairman

Prince George's Historical & Cultural Trust

PO Box 85

Upper Marlboro MD 20773

Donna Schneider, President

Prince George's County Historical Society

PO Box 1513

Upper Marlboro MD 20773

State Historic Preservation Office:

Elizabeth Hughes, Director

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place, 3rd Floor

Crownsville MD 21032

National Park Service:

Kathryn Smith, Program Manager

NHL, National Capital Region

1100 Ohio Drive SW

Washington DC 20242



Figure 1. Recommended Environmental Setting for Greenbelt High School Historic Site (approximately 12.6 acres, being part of Parcel 10, "Greenbelt Junior High School").

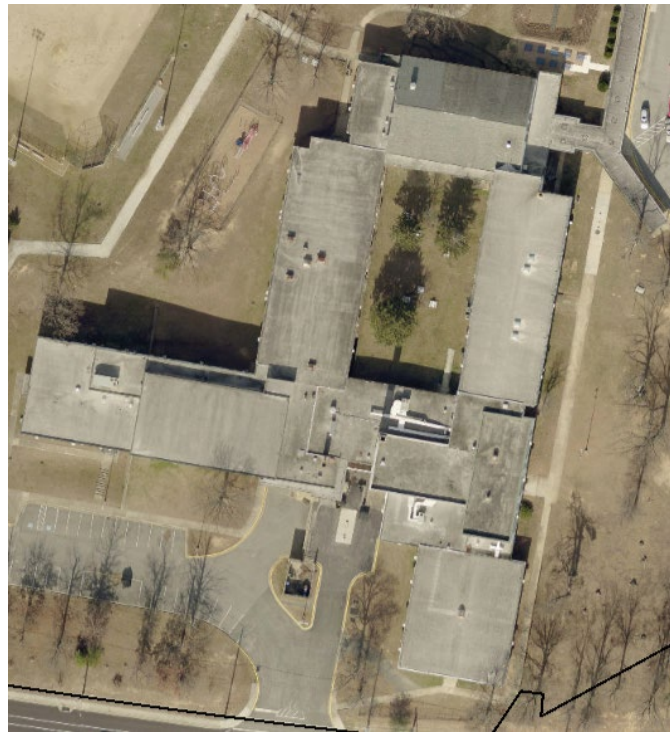


Figure 2. Greenbelt Middle School, aerial, May 2023.

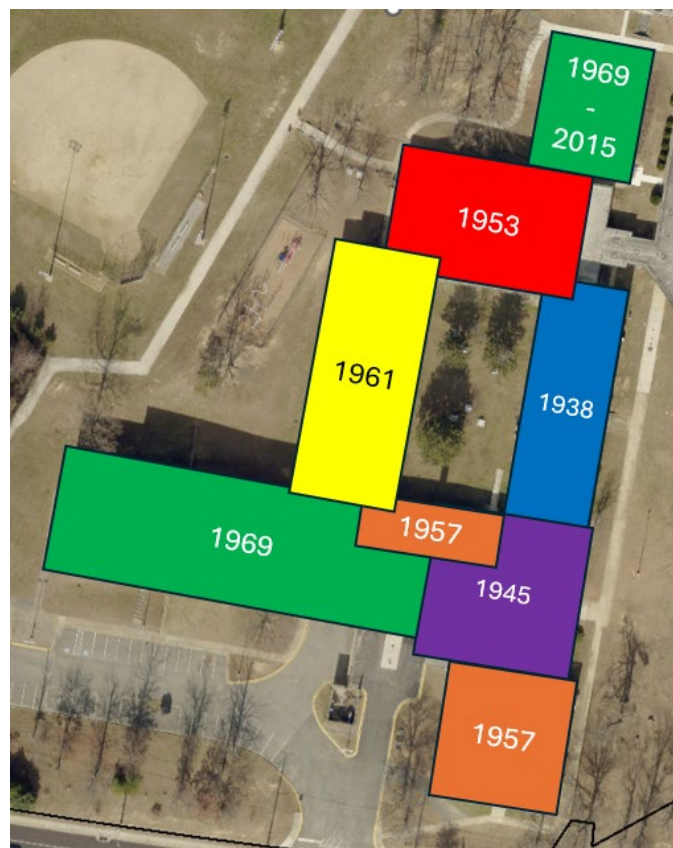


Figure 3. Greenbelt Middle School building phases.



Figure 4. Greenbelt Middle School, east elevation (wide-angle view), May 2024.



Figure 5. Greenbelt Middle School, 1938 building east elevation, May 2024.



Figure 6. Greenbelt Middle School, 1945 addition east elevation, May 2024.



Figure 7. Greenbelt Middle School, 1953 gymnasium addition, north and east elevations, May 2024.



Figure 8. Greenbelt Middle School, 1963 addition, east and south elevations, May 2024.



Figure 9. Greenbelt Middle School, 1961 addition, west elevation, May 2024.



Figure 10. Greenbelt Middle School 1969 addition, south elevation, May 2024.



Figure 11. Greenbelt Middle School, Edmonston Road Underpass, May 2024.



Figure 12. Photo of 1938 building from the 1940 *Pylon* (Greenbelt High School Yearbook).



Figure 13. Miss Stubb's Homeroom (1943 sophomores) in front of 1938 entrance (Source: Prince George's County Historical Society, Tugwell Room).



Dedication Program

THE wheels of progress rolled again as G. H. S. made a broad step into the future. With the dedication of the new wing, the magnanimity of our school became a permanent monument of a growing community. All year, students watched the construction take place and now they are proud to walk through the new addition.

The dedication program, which took place in April, was one of the major events of the year. The dedication committee, composed of Mr. Speicher and Student Council members, planned the entire program.

The ceremony opened with Mr. Marig giving the invocation, followed by several selections by the Glee Club. Mr. Speicher made the dedication speech and Paul Strickler accepted the annex on behalf of the school. Among those present at the program were Mrs. Lillian A. Mitchell, President of the P. T. A.; Mr. G. Gardner Shugart, County Superintendent; Mr. William Brish, Assistant Superintendent, several outstanding local residents; faculty and students.

The annex includes four new classrooms, a laboratory for biological purposes, a school supply store, an infirmary, a cafeteria kitchen, bookroom, storeroom, principal's office complete with an outer office, teachers' room, and a multi-purpose room, set in the green and white school colors, serves for class assemblies and special programs. A special attraction of the new wing is the trophy case in the main hall, where trophies, honor rolls, and bulletins will be displayed.

We now look forward to returning to a bigger and better school next fall and will devote our efforts to the upkeep of the annex and maintenance of high scholastic standards at all times.

Figure 14. 1945 addition east elevation, from 1945 *Pylon* (Greenbelt High School Yearbook).

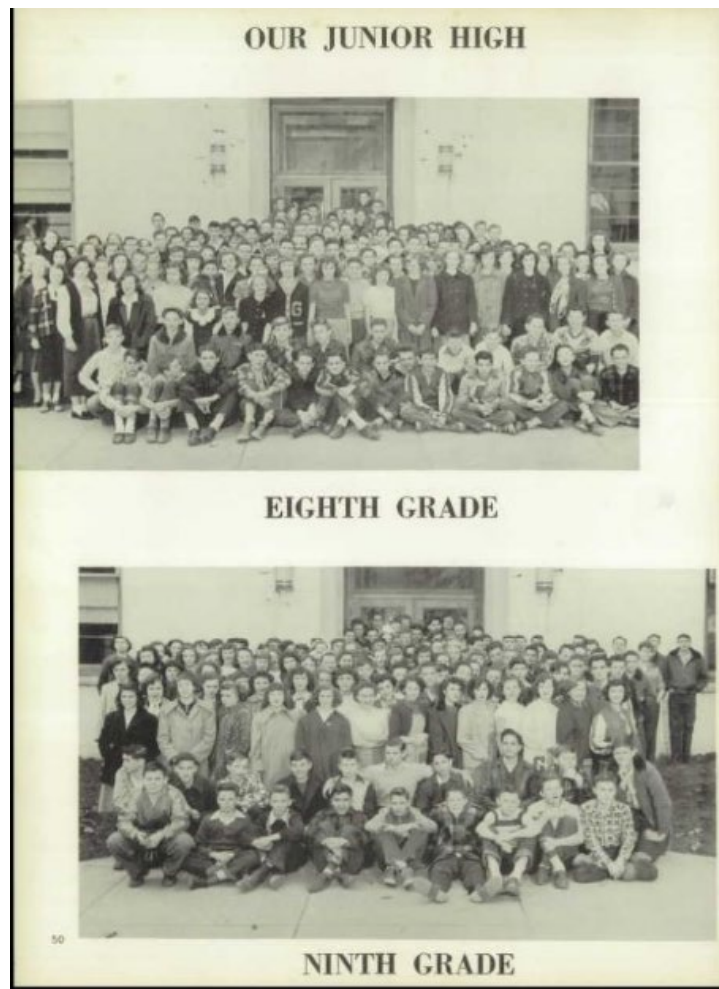


Figure 15. 1950 class photos in front of 1945 entrance, from 1950 *Pylon*.



SENIOR DRAMATICS

Figure 16. Senior Dramatics Club on Edmonston Road underpass, from 1945 *Pylon*.

CAPSULE SUMMARY

PG:67-004-06

Greenbelt High School

8950 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, MD

1938

Public

The Greenbelt High School building was built in 1938 in a minimalist Art Moderne style with 12”-thick brick walls on concrete footings and using glass block on the interior in stairwells and corridors. Today the building is an assemblage of one and two-story white brick blocks with primarily flat roofs, reflecting at least six phases of construction between 1938 and 1969. The additions, built in the Art Moderne style with International-style influences, are primarily rectangular, flat-roofed masses emphasized with a narrow coping of white or dark green color. The building is generally organized around an interior courtyard with a west wing that steps down in elevation as it follows the topography of the site. The historic school is on a 32.87-acre parcel with a modern school building and school bus lot and wooded area. The property is surrounded by commercial uses on the west, south, and east and low-rise apartment buildings to the north.

The Greenbelt High School was built by the federal government to serve residents of Greenbelt, Maryland. The building evolved to serve as the Greenbelt High School (1938 – 1951) and then the Greenbelt Junior High School (1951-2012). Today the building is home to the Dora Kennedy French Immersion School. It sits on one of four parcels that make up the Greenbelt National Historic Landmark. Greenbelt is significant as one of three planned communities built through the federal government’s Green Towns Program during the Depression, for its status as a model for community planning and design, and for the consistency of its architecture with the overall design principals of the community. The school’s simplified Art Moderne and International-style design emphasizes functionalism, siting, materials and economic constraints; all architectural characteristics of the Greenbelt community. The Greenbelt High School exemplifies themes of political history, education, suburban grown, and International-style architecture and is significant as an extant part of the Greenbelt planned community.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.PG:67-4-6

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Greenbelt High School (preferred)

other _____

2. Location

street and number 8950 Edmonston Road not for publication

city, town Greenbelt vicinity

county Prince George's County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Prince George's County Board of Education

street and number 14201 School Lane telephone _____

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 1136 folio 37

city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 0033 tax parcel 0000 tax ID number 2360923

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

6. Classification

Category Count	Ownership	Current Function	Resource
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
			<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
			<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

Condition

excellent ___ deteriorated
 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 building is an assemblage of one and two-story white brick blocks with primarily flat roofs, reflecting at least six phases of construction between 1938 and 1969. The building is generally organized around an interior courtyard with a west wing that steps down in elevation as it follows the topography of the site. The historic school is on a 32.87-acre parcel with a modern school building and school bus lot and wooded area. The property is surrounded by commercial uses on the west, south, and east and low-rise apartment buildings to the north.

STRUCTURE

The construction phases of the school building include: 1) the original building, completed in 1938, constructed in a minimalist Art Moderne style with 12"-thick brick walls on concrete footings, using glass block on the interior in stairwells and corridors. It contained classrooms along with a cafeteria, and science laboratory; 2) a two-story addition to the south completed in 1945 which added five classrooms, a second science laboratory, a principal's office, health office, a kitchen, and a multi-purpose room; 3) a two-story, gable-roofed, brick gymnasium with wood trusses added in 1953 to the north; 4) a 1957 one story addition with metal panel walls added to the south and a brick kitchen addition on the west side of the building; 5) a two-story brick addition in 1961, creating the fourth wall of the interior courtyard; 6) a two- and three-story brick addition extending the building down the slope to the west in 1969, and a single story wing added to the north of the building which was later demolished in 2015/2016. These last two additions included 14 classrooms, a new cafeteria, and enlargement of the library and faculty room.

The oldest portion of the building, dating to 1938, displays minimalist Art Moderne detailing including the emphasis of horizontal lines and grooves using brick corbeling. The original, recessed front entrance is flanked by three receding tiers of masonry, and a discreet steel lintel. The additions, built in the Art Moderne style with International-style influences, are primarily rectangular, flat-roofed masses emphasized with a narrow coping of white or dark green color. The 1953 addition is distinguished by its gable roof and houses the gymnasium. Brick details found on the later additions echo original design elements: the 1945 and 1953 additions use brick corbeling to emphasize horizontal lines, and the 1961 and 1969 additions include brick lattice work around the entrances.

Windows primarily consist of a variety of metal casement windows and glass block. Doors primarily consist of modern metal doors. Some doors in the 1945, 1961, and 1969 buildings appear to be original or have retained their original configuration with transoms and sidelights. Notable elements include three large vertical glass block sections of wall in the east gable end of the gymnasium and the vertically oriented, ten-light, metal frame windows above masonry sills on the west facing elevation of the 1961 addition. The lowest two lights comprise an operable hopper and the windows feature an unusual asymmetrical pattern in which vertical muntins divide the horizontal panes at alternating 2/3 and 1/3 intervals, creating a rhythmic visual effect. This general lighting pattern is referenced in windows of five horizontally oriented lights of similar proportions in the 1969 addition. The windows of the 1938 and 1945 portions of the building, originally metal casement windows with operable hoppers, have been replaced. Window and wall air conditioning units have been installed throughout the school.

SITE

The school was originally situated to be equidistant from the Greenbelt Commercial Center to the east and the town of Berwyn Heights to the west. It sits near the top of a hill with a view to the west. The property is bounded by Breezewood Drive on the north, Edmonston Road on the east, Greenbelt Road on the south, and Beltway Plaza to the west. The 32.87-acre parcel includes the historic school building, situated in the southeast portion of the property, as well as athletic fields, a bus lot between the

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historic school and Beltway Plaza to the west, and the new Greenbelt Middle School (built in 2012) to the north along Breezewood Drive.

The east elevation, comprising the first four building phases, faces Edmonston Road. It remains the most formal and reads as the front of the building. The 1938, 1945, and 1953 building phases have all retained their own front entrances. The 1953 addition is used as the main entrance today and has a covered walkway connecting it to the pick-up and drop-off vehicle entrance.

Before the construction of the Capital Beltway and the expansion of Kenilworth Avenue, the school was connected to the rest of the planned community of Greenbelt by a wooded trail that skirted Greenbelt Lake. The trail's underpass can still be seen under Edmonston Road near the school's entrance drive and is now overgrown with vegetation and closed off with a chain link fence. The area to the west of the school alongside Greenbelt Road was imagined as a "wooded valley" and a remnant of a wooded area remains separating the school from the bus lot onsite. To the north of the school were athletic fields, some of which remain today.

INTEGRITY

The Greenbelt High School has retained its essential form as a mid-twentieth century school building with much of its historic fabric intact. Additions built in 1945, 1953, 1957, 1961, and 1969 followed a similar architectural style and have acquired their own historic significance. The school has retained a cohesive architectural style, maintained its recognizable visual connection with the Greenbelt National Historic Landmark, and continued to serve its historical purpose for approximately eighty-five years. The school retains a moderately high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

8. Significance

Inventory No. PG:67-4-6

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates 1937, 1945, 1953, 1957, 1961, 1969

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not 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.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Greenbelt High School property is one of the four discontinuous parcels that make up the Greenbelt National Historic Landmark. The 1935-46 development of Greenbelt, Maryland represents the first, government-sponsored, planned community in the United States built on "garden city" principles and embodies the regional planning principles and architectural ideals of the mid-1930s. In 1919, the Garden and Town Planning Association in England, in conjunction with Ebenezer Howard, adopted the following definition of the term "garden city": "A Garden City is a Town designed for healthy living and industry; of a size that makes possible a full measure of social life, but not larger; surrounded by a rural belt; the whole of the land being in public ownership or held in trust for the community." Three "greenbelt towns" were built by Roosevelt's New Deal government along garden city lines to respond to the Depression and a housing crisis in American cities. The town of Greenbelt, Maryland, the first, largest, and most complete of the three towns, was an attempt to build a large-scale, scientifically planned suburban community that would decentralize the population of Washington, D.C. The greenbelt towns were comprehensive in scope, featuring housing, commerce, schools, and recreation. Their architectural treatments varied depending on the town, but Greenbelt's was functional and modern, with the community buildings receiving a more conscious stylistic treatment. Today, the greenbelt towns remain one of the boldest examples of public housing on a community scale ever undertaken in this country. Their influence, along with that of the Tennessee Valley Authority, has been felt world-wide. Greenbelt's significance can be felt in the emergence of regional planning as a discipline, and in the widespread construction of planned communities after the 1940s.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

In 1933, 15 million Americans were unemployed as a result of the Great Depression. Franklin Delano Roosevelt came to office in that year offering a New Deal and the promise of recovery to a nation that was hungry, drifting, and pessimistic. A majority of those afflicted were the rural poor: sharecroppers, tenants, migrant farmers, and coal miners. Within the first hundred days of his administration in 1933, the President requested, and Congress passed sweeping legislation to provide relief, including the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the National Industrial Recovery Act. The government also authorized the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The Land Program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and divisions within the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture were charged with reinvigorating the desperate economies of the farmer, "stranded worker" and industrial laborer.¹

¹ Greenbelt, Maryland Historic District. National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1996.

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Under the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 Franklin Roosevelt created the Resettlement Administration (RA) and appointed Rexford Guy Tugwell to lead it. While the primary mission of the RA was to aid the rural poor, Tugwell saw rural and urban poverty as interconnected. Tugwell and Roosevelt embraced the idea of helping the inner-city poor by constructing suburban communities that merged the best of the rural and industrial spheres. Greenbelt towns, the name given to their proposed suburban communities because of their peripheral belt of farms and woodlands, would provide alternative housing opportunities outside city bounds. Greenbelt towns, developed on affordable open land outside major cities, would draw urban, low-income people out to them because of their healthful environments and available job opportunities. They would be characterized by productive use of land and by the conveniences and cultural opportunities of a city with many advantages of life on the land.²

When the first residents moved in on September 30, 1937, the town of Greenbelt had most of its housing units, a commercial center complete with a grocery store, barber shop, beauty shop, drugstore, and filling station; a community building/school; a fire station and auto repair; a lake stocked with fish, a small recreation pavilion; many well-equipped playgrounds, and tennis courts. There were three family cemeteries, seven farms along the Edmonston/Branchville intersection, and 300 allotment gardens. Electricity was purchased from Potomac Electric Power Company and water from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. By the time all the units were filled in 1938, the town's population had reached 3,000 persons.³ Greenbelt was established as an all-white community. Research to date indicates that African American families did not begin moving into Greenbelt until the late 1960s and early 1970s.⁴

The Community Building/Greenbelt Center School opened its doors in 1937. Some of the first graders in this group would, 11 years later, be among the members of the 1948 graduating class of Greenbelt High School.⁵

Greenbelt High School (1937 – 1951)

Construction of the Greenbelt High School began in 1937. High School students attended classes in the community grammar school until the new High School building was completed in April 1938. Construction of the building cost the Federal Government \$142,000. The original building was a two-story structure of three regular classrooms, a library, music room, typing room, bookkeeping room, science laboratory, two home economic rooms, and two industrial arts rooms. Because of limited funds, the architects had no opportunity to supply more than bare necessities.⁶ The Farm Security Administration allotted \$26,000 per year to operate the school, while Prince George's County contributed \$9,000 per year. The costs of operating the school were split between the federal government and Prince George's County because the school was on federal land, but students from several of the surrounding communities, including Beltsville and Berwyn also attended the school. At the time the school was built, the town of Greenbelt was still under the control of the federal government, it had not been assessed, and was not paying county taxes. Therefore, a dispute arose over the amount of money the county and the federal government should pay for its operation.⁷

² Greenbelt, Maryland Historic District. National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1996.

³ Greenbelt, Maryland Historic District. National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1996.

⁴ Greenbelt Museum, "Fact Sheet: Race & Greenbelt, Maryland," 2013. https://e5d30bf8-bfa4-42fa-838d-f1871c1f92e6.filesusr.com/ugd/b4db72_e8226f2261e549659f4e00c1277b191e.pdf

⁵ Historical Society File, Greenbelt High School

⁶ Historical Society File, Greenbelt High School

⁷ *The Evening Star*, September 4, 1938, p.1.

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The high school building could accommodate 300 pupils and offered standard high school subjects.⁸ School buses were not provided at first, as there was a dispute over who was going to pay for it. Although the school opened at the beginning of the 1938-1939 school year, the lunchroom was not completed until March of 1939.⁹ Student Council was one of the first student institutions to be formed in the school. A major concern of parents was the safety of pupils walking to school, as at first no school bus service was provided. Initially, school bus service was provided by the Town of Greenbelt for a nominal charge of 5 cents for each round trip.¹⁰

Members of the Journalism Club at the High School issued the first school newspaper, *The Comet*, in November 1938. Shortly afterwards, the name of the school newspaper was changed to *The Pioneer*.¹¹ The paper provided articles on happenings at the school and amusing cartoons. Evening courses were offered for adults in the high school building by the Education Committee of the Citizens' Association. There was a charge of \$4.85 per course for commercial classes and \$1 for each industrial arts class. College Credit classes, Home Economics classes, and Arts classes were offered.¹²

Almost immediately, more room was needed for the students attending the school in 1938. The funds were not allotted due to the County's Board of Education being unable to obtain a clear title to the property from the Federal Government's Farm Security Administration.¹³ The first graduating class of 1939 included 23 students.¹⁴

When the High School opened for the new school year in September 1939, there were 204 students enrolled, of which 65 to 70 were freshmen. Adult classes also continued to be offered in the evening.¹⁵ The first edition of the school's monthly newspaper, *The Pioneer*, was published in November 1939.¹⁶

By January 1940, fifty percent of the students attending the high school came from surrounding towns, including Branchville, Beltsville, Berwyn, and College Park, and about 210 students were enrolled. Three course tracks were offered in the school: 1) the academic, for those planning to continue their studies at an institution of higher learning; 2) the commercial, for those planning to enter business; and 3) the general, to prepare students for trades, such as nursing, laboratory assistance, and general vocations. There were ten instructors who came from ten states. At this time, the building still did not have an auditorium or gymnasium. Basketball practices had to be held in the Greenbelt Community Center and the soccer team used the old gravel pit to the west of the school for practices. Several student clubs had also organized at the school, including Spanish Club, Hobby Club, the Glee Club, Commercial Club, Dramatic Club, Journalistic Club, and Symphony Group. The High School had a graduating class of 29 in 1940. It was noted that the large percentage of outside students and the varied backgrounds of the teachers was a deterrent to the provincialism often found in small town high schools.¹⁷

⁸ *The Evening Star*, Thursday, April 7, 1938, p. 14; *Greenbelt Cooperator*, Wednesday, June 15, 1938, p. 1.

⁹ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, March 30, 1939, p. 6.

¹⁰ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, November 3, 1938, p. 10.

¹¹ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, December 8, 1938, p. 16.

¹² *Greenbelt Cooperator*, December 22, 1938, p. 5.

¹³ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, November 3, 1938, p. 2.

¹⁴ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, June 22, 1939, p. 4.

¹⁵ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, September 14 and October 5, 1939, p. 2.

¹⁶ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, November 23, 1939, p. 8.

¹⁷ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, January 25, 1940, p. 8.

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Student enrollment at the high school was 235 in October 1940, of which 74 were freshmen. A Parent-Teacher Association was organized at Greenbelt High School at the beginning of the 1940-1941 school year.¹⁸

In 1941 a team of experts of the county school system, the college of education at the University of Maryland and the State Department of Education compiled a report concluding that a drastic reorganization of the school system was needed in Prince George's County. Members of this committee were appointed by Nicholas Orem, the county Superintendent of Schools. The report recommended a reorganization of the school system that was based on the premise that it should have six years of primary education, three years of junior high school, and three years of high school. The system at the time lacked a junior high school element. The report recommended that the Greenbelt High School be converted to a junior high school with 250 pupils.¹⁹

In December 1940, the Prince George's County School Board estimated that a 10-room addition to the Greenbelt High School would cost \$230,000. In June 1941, the Prince George's County Board of Education applied for \$250,000 from the Federal Works Administration to build a new elementary school in Greenbelt, and an addition to the Greenbelt High School. Prince George's County's Board of Education noted in June 1941 that the expansion of the schools in Greenbelt would be necessary due to the construction of 1,000 new defense houses in Greenbelt, which would double the town's population within a year. The superintendent of the county schools, Nicholas Orem, noted that federal funds would have to be used for school construction at Greenbelt as the county school board could not build on sites that it did not own. At that time the land was still owned by the federal government and the Greenbelt elementary and high schools were operated under a contract between authorities in Greenbelt and the Prince George's Commissioners. It was estimated that the cost of the high school addition would be \$100,000.²⁰

Almost immediately, both the elementary school and high school in Greenbelt faced overcrowding conditions, as an addition to the high school was not expected to be completed by the time the school was slated to open in 1942. At the beginning of the 1942 school year, 300 students reported to the Greenbelt High School.²¹ New families had begun to move into the new defense housing in Greenbelt, increasing the school's student population. In October 1942, 75 pupils of Greenbelt High School were transferred to Laurel High School because of crowded conditions. It was noted that most of the pupils were children of employees at the Beltsville experimental farm.²²

By 1943 Greenbelt High School was overcrowded with more than 350 students. Principal Paul Barnhart added three teachers, and the student-operated cafeteria was converted into two classrooms, an auditorium-gymnasium, and home economics laboratories. The entire faculty was female, except for Barnhart and an industrial arts teacher.²³

In 1944, with the construction of 1,000 defense homes in Greenbelt, funds were allotted for the addition of a wing to the high school. This consisted of five classrooms, including a second science laboratory, a principal's office, health office, a

¹⁸ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, October 10, 1940, p. 2; *Greenbelt Cooperator*, December 6, 1940, p. 6.

¹⁹ *Evening Star*, February 28, 1941, Society and General News, p. 1.

²⁰ *Evening Star*, April 23, 1941, p. 1B; *Greenbelt Cooperator*, June 11, 1941, p. 1.

²¹ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, September 11, 1942, p. 2.

²² *The Evening Star*, October 14, 1942, p. ___; *Greenbelt Cooperator*, September 11, 1942, p. 2.

²³ Williamson, Mary Lou. *Greenbelt: History of a New Town 1937-1987*. 1987, City of Greenbelt. page 118.

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kitchen, and a multi-purpose room, at a cost of \$97,147. The average number of students from 1944-1949 was 581, with an average faculty of 18.²⁴

In June 1944, the Federal Works Agency approved a contract for the E.L. Daniels Company of Arlington, Virginia, to build an addition onto the high school for \$99,224. The addition was to be two stories high, constructed of brick and reinforced concrete, and be fireproof. The addition was to include four classrooms, one science room, one multi-purpose room with attached kitchen, a first aid room, a teachers' room, administrative offices, and a storeroom.²⁵ Construction on the addition started in August 1944 and was expected to be completed by early December. The new wing was built in the shape of an L and was joined to the left-hand side of the old building. The new wing was described in the December 9, 1944, *Greenbelt Cooperator* as follows: "At the end of this new wing is a multipurpose room, with the office on the left and classrooms on the right. The school store, kitchen, and first aid room will also be located here. No space for lockers is provided in the new building. Upstairs will be four classrooms" When students returned to school in September 1944, enrollment had reached 408 students.²⁶

In May 1945, the Prince George's County School Board established a 12-year system for both white and Black schools in the county. At that time, Maryland was one of only three states that did not have a 12-year school system at public expense. The change meant that approximately 6,000 students in the seventh and eighth grades would receive an extra year of high school instruction. Due to this change, the Greenbelt High School would receive eighth grade students from Beltsville School and seventh and eighth grade students from the Greenbelt and Berwyn Elementary Schools.²⁷ A total of 64 students graduated from Greenbelt High School on June 7, 1945, with the theme of "Building America."²⁸

To gradually phase in the changes for the 12-year school system in Prince George's County, the junior high would consist of seventh and eighth grade students who would have one home room teacher covering general course subjects and half the day with specialized teachers who would cover special subjects. The following year, the junior high school would include students from the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades, while the senior high school would include students from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.²⁹

At the beginning of the 1945-1946 school year, Greenbelt High School had an enrollment of 570 students. Of these, there were 232 students in the 7th and 8th grades, comprising the new junior high school system. The new wing was in use for the first time and included five classrooms, a combination auditorium and gymnasium, and an office. The teaching staff numbered 26, an increase of 10 over the previous year.³⁰

²⁴ Historical Society File, Greenbelt High School

²⁵ *Times Herald* – June 27, 1944, p. 7; *Greenbelt Cooperator*, June 16, 1944, p. 1.

²⁶ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, September 1, 1944, p. 4; September 29, 1944, p. 3; December 9, 1944, p. 1.

²⁷ *The Evening Star* – Wednesday, May 9, 1945, p. 21.

²⁸ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, June 1, 1945, p. _.

²⁹ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, June 22, 1945, p. _.

³⁰ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, September 21, 1945, p. _.

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Enrollment at the Greenbelt High School reached 622 students in September 1946.³¹ The multi-purpose room that was supposed to also serve as a basketball court, which at 40 x 60 feet and a 15-foot ceiling, was found to be too small for use as a basketball court, which ideally would be 50 x 80 feet and have 18-foot ceilings.³²

In 1948, the Prince George's County Board of Education was authorized by the Prince George's County Commissioners to purchase schools located on United States Government property, including those schools in Greenbelt and Riverdale.³³ Due to the continued overcrowding of the Greenbelt High School, county school officials appropriated \$10,000 for the purchase of twenty prefabricated Quonset huts to house the additional students. This was considered a temporary solution until funds were available to construct additions onto the overcrowded schools.³⁴ Four Quonset huts were delivered to the Greenbelt High School in April 1949 to attempt to alleviate overcrowding.³⁵ In June 1949 the Prince George's County Board of Education, which had been operating the school, purchased the building and land from the Federal Government for \$54,360. A total of 77 Greenbelt High School seniors received diplomas on June 14, 1950.³⁶ In June 1951 the last Senior High class graduated, and the school was converted into a Junior High School.³⁷ When the High Point High School building was completed in 1951, Greenbelt students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades began to attend that school, along with students from Berwyn Heights and Beltsville.

Greenbelt Junior High School (1951 – 2012)

The next addition, in 1953, was in the form of a \$170,000 gymnasium with bleachers for seating 500 spectators. In April 1961, the Prince George's County School Board allocated \$422,900 for the renovation of the Greenbelt Junior High School and the addition of 14 classrooms. The low bidder for the project was N.S. Stavrou, Inc. of Washington, DC. This addition was to replace a 10-room temporary annex that was placed on the building. Construction was slated to be completed around February 1962 and included changes to several of the classrooms, as well as the office.³⁸

The third and fourth expansion projects in 1957 and 1961, provided for a maximum enrollment of 925 students. This figure was exceeded by 50 students in 1965. To provide for the steadily increasing enrollment it was necessary during the summer of 1967 to assemble three temporary buildings directly in front of the main building. The enrollment for the 1967-1968 school year was 1,050 students and a faculty of 55 teachers.³⁹

The sixth addition in 1969 included 14 classrooms, a new cafeteria and administrative wing, plus enlargement of the library and faculty room, at a cost of \$1,130,000. The building, at this point could accommodate 1,250 – 1,300 students.⁴⁰

³¹ *Greenbelt Cooperator*, October 4, 1946, p. 3.

³² *Greenbelt Cooperator*, November 29, 1946, p. 4.

³³ *Evening Star*, June 9, 1948, p. _

³⁴ *Evening Star*, October 6, 1948, p. 27.

³⁵ *Evening Star*, April 22, 1949, p. 33.

³⁶ *Evening Star*, June 2, 1950, p. 29.

³⁷ Historical Society File, Greenbelt High School

³⁸ *The Cumberland News*, April 13, 1961, p. 8; *Greenbelt News Review*, April 20, 1961, p. 8.

³⁹ Historical Society File, Greenbelt High School

⁴⁰ Historical Society File, Greenbelt High School

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SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Although the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education* had declared racial segregation in public education to be unconstitutional, most students in Prince George's County continued to attend racially segregated schools into the 1970s.⁴¹ The Greenbelt High School's history of racial integration is reflective of the County's drawn-out process of desegregation from the 1950's through the 1970's. As the school system moved towards integration in the late 1960's and early 1970's, Greenbelt Junior High School was identified as a primarily white school that could receive students bussed in from nearby Black communities, including Lakeland, in College Park. A 1964 memo from the Superintendent of Schools to members of the Board of Education suggesting next steps in the Desegregation Program regarding the Lakeland area notes that children will attend either Laurel Junior, Beltsville Junior, or Greenbelt Junior High, effective September 1964. A court-ordered desegregation plan, effective January 29, 1973, implemented a bussing strategy that planned for Greenbelt Junior High to receive students from Thomas G. Pullen Junior High School which would reduce its black enrollment from 91.8 percent to 32.8 percent by transferring 704 students to Glenridge, Greenbelt, and Benjamin Tasker Junior High Schools.⁴²

References to the integration of Greenbelt Junior High are found in the oral histories collected in the *Lakeland Digital Archive*, which collects the history of the African American community of Lakeland, College Park. Students from Lakeland were some of the first African Americans to attend Greenbelt Junior High. Their oral histories reflect their apprehensions about making the transition from the primarily Black Lakeland school, some minor incidents of racist name calling, and the presence of both Black and white teachers.⁴³ One Lakelander, Maxine Gross, recalled about 30 Black students in the early days of her attendance at the Greenbelt Junior High, including standout athletes Georgie Rounder and Jeff Briscoe, who went on to Parkdale High School.⁴⁴

⁴¹ United States Commission on Civil Rights, Clearinghouse Publication 52, "A Long Day's Journey into Light: School Desegregation in Prince George's County," March 1976, 22.

⁴² #359 - A long day's journey into light : school desegregation in Prince ... - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library

⁴³ Oral History of Patricia Briscoe Middleton, Oral History of Delphine Gross, <https://archive.lakelandchp.com/>.

⁴⁴ Oral History of Maxine Gross, <https://archive.lakelandchp.com/>

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 32.87 acres

Acreage of historical setting 12.58 acres

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Greenbelt Junior High School, Map 26/Grid B4/Parcel 10.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Tyler Smith, Planner II; Jennifer Stabler, Planner IV		
organization	The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission		
	Historic Preservation Section, Countywide Planning Division		
	Prince George's County Planning Department	date	March 2024
street & number	1616 McCormick Drive	telephone	301-952-3681
city or town	Largo	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
410-697-9591



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Emmett V. Jordan, *Mayor*
Kristen L.K. Weaver, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Amy Knesel
Donielle McKinney
Jenni Pompei
Silke I. Pope
Rodney M. Roberts

April 11, 2024

John Peter Thompson, Chairman
Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission
1616 McCormick Drive
Largo, MD 20774

Re: Historic Greenbelt Junior High School
8950 Edmonston Rd., Greenbelt, MD

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On February 26, 2024, the Greenbelt City Council voted unanimously to request that the Historic Preservation Commission designate the historic Greenbelt Junior High School, currently home to the Dora Kennedy French Immersion School, a Prince George's County Historic Site. Please accept this letter as a formal request to have the Commission complete an Historic Site Evaluation. This request is consistent with Strategy 3.4 in the Historic Preservation section of the 2013 *Approved Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Section Map Amendment* which recommended the site be evaluated for designation as a Prince George's County historic site.

The City is confident that given the historical significance of the property it will meet the historic site designation criteria of Subtitle 29-104(a). The school building was primarily constructed between 1935 and 1945 in two major, and perhaps several minor, phases, all of which contribute to its architectural significance. The school building is noted for its striking art deco architecture and is recognized as a contributing resource of the City's National Historic District (67-4) and National Historic Landmark designations.

The City is concerned that this significant historic resource is in danger of being lost based on recent communications with representatives of the Board of Education and believes it is critical for the Commission to act now to preserve this historically significant resource. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development, at thruby@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2041.

Sincerely,

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor

cc: City Council
Tom Gross, Planning Supervisory, M-NCPPC
Josué Salmeron, City Manager
Terri Hruby, Planning Director



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland 20774 • 301-952-3680 • pgplanning.org/HPC.htm • historicpreservation@ppd.mncppc.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
6:30 PM

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY. ACCESS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION WEBSITE: <http://pgplanning.org/496/Whats-New>

HISTORIC PROPERTY EVALUATION **Greenbelt Middle School (Historic Resource 67-004-06)** 8950 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

As part of its May 21, 2024 public meeting, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will evaluate the Greenbelt Middle School, 8950 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, Maryland, for potential designation as a Prince George's County Historic Site.

Because the property was designated as a historic resource in the 2013 *Approved Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan*, this process is conducted through Subtitle 29-118 (The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Ordinance). In conducting its review, the HPC will evaluate the property on the basis of the nine criteria for historic and architectural significance found in Section 29-104 of the Ordinance. The Historic Preservation Commission's decision in this matter is final unless an appeal is filed.

The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that the property that is the subject of this public hearing be posted with informational signs at least two weeks in advance. These signs will be posted no later than May 7, 2024. In addition, this notice complies with the Ordinance requirement to notify the property owner, adjacent property owners, and interested parties at least 14 days in advance of the Historic Preservation Commission's hearing.

Information on the Historic Site designation process and the staff recommendations for the case will be available on May 14, 2024 at <http://pgplanning.org/469/Historic-Preservation-Commission>

As the property owner, or an adjacent property owner, or an interested party, the HPC is interested in any comments you may have on this matter. You are encouraged to attend the hearing. *If you cannot attend, written comments for the case record should be received by the close of business on May 21, 2024.* Please send comments to:

John Peter Thompson, Chairman
Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission
1616 McCormick Drive
Largo MD 20774

Written comments may also be submitted via e-mail to HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org.

For additional questions, contact the Historic Preservation Commission staff at 301-952-3680.

DATE OF NOTICE: May 3, 2024

- c: John Peter Thompson, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission
Lakisha Hull, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, Planning Director
Katina Shoulars, Division Chief, Countywide Planning Division
Thomas Gross, Supervisor, Historic Preservation Section
Garrett Dickerson, Area 67 Planner, Community Planning Division

Property Owner:

Prince George's County Public Schools
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro MD 20772

Adjacent Property Owners:

Empirian Village of MD LLC
1719 Route 10 East, Suite 220
Parsippany NJ 07054

PAC Investment Group LLC
8955 Edmonston Road, Unit 27
Greenbelt MD 20770

Prince George's County
1400 McCormick Drive, Suite 336
Largo MD 20774

KRMZJ LLC
1120 St. Paul Street
Baltimore MD 21202

Craigs and Associates LLC
8957 Edmonston Road, Suite H
Greenbelt MD 20770-1005

NAS Pentagun Zone Inc.
7225 Hanover Parkway, Suite D
Greenbelt MD 20905

Donald S. Cohen Trust
1615 C. Piccard Drive, Unit 1102
Rockville MD 20850

Shelby Holdings LLC
9470 Annapolis Road, Suite 414
Lanham MD 20706

Kenneth and Dorianne Folstein
1541 Eton Way
Crofton MD 21114

Akachi Primary & Urgent Care LLC
8957 Edmonston Road, Unit P
Greenbelt MD 20770

John F. and Karen K. Powers Joint Revocable Trust
804 Balboa Drive
Silver Spring MD 20905

Omega Management IT Solutions
1725 I Street NW, Suite 300
Washington DC 20006

VineIT Consulting LLC
1011 Rosemere Avenue
Silver Spring MD 20904

Law Office of Suzanne L. Rothwell LLC
8957 Edmonston Road, Suite D
Greenbelt MD 20770

Gustavo and Edwina Restrepo
18001 Ednor View Terrace
Ashton MD 20861-9758

AD Real Properties LLC
8957 Edmonston Road, Unit 13
Greenbelt MD 20770-1005

Gustavo and Patricia Restrepo
8955 Edmonston Road, Unit 21
Greenbelt MD 20770

Dominic McDuff and Ekaette McDuff
8957 Edmonston Road, Unit Q
Greenbelt MD

Abundant Healthcare Services, Inc.
8955 Edmonston Road, Suite H
Greenbelt MD 20770-1006

Mid Atlantic Systems Inc.
8957 Edmonston Road, Suite B
Greenbelt MD 20770-1005

Duane McKinney and Arthur McKinney
7708 Hanover Parkway, Unit 202
Greenbelt MD 20770-2633

Beltsville Industrial Center LLC
3206 Tower Oaks Boulevard, Suite 400
Rockville MD 20852

Greenpark Property LLC
6327 Greenbelt Road
College Park MD 20740-2318

JRJ Management LLC
P.O. Box 204
Glenwood MD 21738-0204

Bell Atlantic MD, Inc.
1 East Pratt Street, Room 8N 20
Baltimore MD 21202-1128

Berwyn Presbyterian Church
6301 Greenbelt Road
Berwyn Heights MD 20740-2318

McDonalds Real Estate Company
8017 Dorsey Run Road, Suite A2
Jessup MD 20794

Sunbelt LLC
6215 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt MD 20740

6201 Greenbelt Road LLC
WC and AN Miller Development Co.
4701 Sangamore Rd Ste S 135
Bethesda MD 20816

GB Mall Limited Partnership
Quantum Management Company
4912 Del Ray Avenue
Bethesda MD 20814-2517

Beltway Plaza Residential 1A LLC
Quantum Management Company
4912 Del Ray Avenue
Bethesda MD 20814-2517

Municipality:
Hon. Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor
City of Greenbelt
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt MD 20770

Interested Parties:
Douglas McElrath, Chairman
Prince George's Heritage
4703 Annapolis Road
Bladensburg MD 20710

Donna Schneider, President
Prince George's County Historical Society
PO Box 1513
Upper Marlboro MD 20773

Jack I. Thompson, Jr., Chairman
Prince George's Historical & Cultural Trust
PO Box 85
Upper Marlboro MD 20773

State Historic Preservation Office:
Elizabeth Hughes, Director
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville MD 21032

National Park Service:
Kathryn Smith, Program Manager
NHL, National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive SW
Washington DC 20242



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland 20774 • pgplanning.org/HPC.htm • 301-952-3680 • historicpreservation@ppd.mnccpc.org

Historic Preservation Commission Public Hearing

Sign Posting Affidavit

I hereby affirm that the attached photographs represent the posting of a public hearing notice at:

8950 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

This public hearing notice was posted on May 3, 2024 and has been posted at least two weeks prior to the advertised public hearing, according to the requirements of Subtitle 29 of the Prince George's County Code and the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance (Subtitle 27).

The purpose of the public hearing notice was to advertise a Historic Resource Evaluation by the Historic Preservation Commission for the property at the above-cited address also identified as:

Greenbelt Middle School (Historic Resource 67-004-06)

The posted public hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Meeting access instructions can be found on the Historic Preservation Commission's website at <https://www.pgplanning.org/countywide-planning/historic-preservation>. The meeting will be held at the following date and time:

6:30 p.m.
May 21, 2024

My signature affirms the validity of this information.

Tyler A. Smith

Signature _____

Date May 3, 2024 _____

67-004-06 Greenbelt Middle School – Sign Posting, 05/03/2024













HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION HEARING

Site Name: Greenbelt Middle School
 Address: 8950 Edmonston Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Hearing Information
 Date: 05/21/2024
 Time: 6:30 PM

Site Number: 67-004-06

For more information about this property or to share comments,
 contact the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:
301-952-3680

For meeting access information: <https://www.pgplanning.org/496/Whats-New/>
 Planning.org