

VLR - 9/15/99
NRHP - 12/9/99

**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 or 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 an 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: Clarendon School
Other names/site number: Matthew Maury Elementary School; Arlington Arts Center DHR #000-0453

2. Location

Street & Number: 3550 Wilson Boulevard Not for Publication
City or town: Arlington Vicinity
State: Virginia Code: VA County: Arlington Code: 013 Zip Code: 22201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

M. Catherine Jensen 10/18/99
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. _____ Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 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:) _____

Clarendon Elementary School
Name of Property

Arlington County, VA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> Objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
N/A

Number of contributing Resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
<u>EDUCATION/School</u>	<u>SOCIAL/Civic</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
<u>Classical Revival</u>	foundation: <u>Brick</u>
_____	walls: <u>Brick/Stucco</u>
_____	roof: <u>Asphalt/Slate</u>
_____	other: _____
_____	_____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet

Clarendon Elementary School
Name of Property

Arlington County, VA
County and State

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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or 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.)

See continuation sheet

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1910-1949

Significant Dates

1910

1954

1973

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Charles M. Robinson

M. W. Gayle

Clarendon Elementary School
Name of Property

Arlington County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)

previously listed in the NR

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 add. data:

State SHPO office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Arlington County School Board

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Two acres

UTM References: Washington West USGS Map

1 11/8/ 13/1/7/6/4/5/ 14/3/0/5/5/4/0/
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Clarendon Elementary School is located on a two-acre lot at 3550 Wilson Boulevard in Clarendon, Arlington County, Virginia. The property's coordinates are: N 63 degrees 33' 0" E (northern boundary); S 71 degrees 44' 30" W (southern boundary); N 18 degrees 15' 30" W (western boundary); S 18 degrees 15' 30" E (eastern boundary). The property lines run the following distances: north - 202.06 feet; south - 200 feet; west - 421.2 feet; east - 450 feet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Clarendon Elementary School has been associated with this site since the building's construction in 1910.

See continuation sheet

Clarendon Elementary School
Name of Property

Arlington County, VA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Laura V. Trieschmann and Robin J. Weidlich, Architectural Historians
Organization E.H.T. Traceries Inc. Date March 1999
Street & Number 5420 Western Avenue Telephone (301) 656-5283
City or Town Chevy Chase State Maryland Zip code 20815

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Arlington County (Dale Waters, Office of Neighborhood Services)
street & number 2100 Clarendon Boulevard telephone (703) 228-3830
city or town Arlington state VA zip code 22201

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 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 the Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet**

The Clarendon School, 3550 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Clarendon School (Matthew Maury School) is located at 3550 Wilson Boulevard in Clarendon, Arlington County, Virginia. Constructed in two phases, the main block of the building dates from 1910, with a 1954 addition to the rear elevation. The imposing brick building features stylistic elements from the Classical Revival style, an architectural trend fashionable during the period the building was constructed. The main block of the square structure is constructed of brick, randomly laid in five- and six-course American bond. It rises two-and-a-half stories in height with a hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles. Set upon a raised foundation stuccoed on the exterior, the building is three bays wide and two bays deep. Division of the interior floors is marked on all four sides of the exterior by the beveled watertable marking the foundation from the basement, and the narrow stringcourse the serves as window sill for the first story openings. The overhanging eaves are finished with a narrow frieze and bed molding. A large interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises from the southeast corner of the building. Horizontal massing is provided by the tall stuccoed watertable and belt course, the one-story portico over the main entry, the recessed panels between the first and second story openings, and the shallow hipped roof with its expansive overhanging eaves. Yet, the symmetrically placed openings, wide mullions, and enclosed pediments on the projecting front bays emphasize verticality.

Site Description

The Clarendon School is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and North Monroe Street. The building is substantially setback from the street with a surrounding landscaped yard and parking to the east. The property consists of a two-acre site that includes Maury Park, one of the few public parks within surrounding neighborhood of Clarendon. The park contains playground facilities, basketball and tennis courts, and a picnic area set to the south of the school building. North Monroe and Eighth Streets mark the rear boundary of the park. The surrounding neighborhood represents a mix of small-scale residential and commercial properties.

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Exterior Description

The façade, facing north onto Wilson Boulevard, is distinguished by two symmetrical bays that project slightly from the face of the structure. The bays are identically marked from foundation to roof. The basement level is illuminated by triple window openings, recessed within the plane of the wall. The openings are fixed with narrow awnings in the base of the window. The first and the second stories are pierced by triple openings, divided by wide mullions of wood and molded surrounds. The face of the brick building is stuccoed within the slightly recessed panels found between the first and second stories. Each of the elongated openings contains 9/9 double-hung, wood sash windows with thin muntins. Capped by front gable roofs, the bays have enclosed pediments with raked cornices. The face of the tympanum is clad with square butt slate tiles, and pierced by petite Palladian windows with 1/1 double-hung, wood sash. The openings have square-edged surrounds with backbanding and wood sills.

The main entry is ornamented by a wood frame portico with classical detailing. The one-bay wide portico is set upon a poured concrete foundation with a set of steps to the north. Paired Tuscan columns and single Tuscan pilasters support the flat roof. Wrought-iron railings have been placed along the sides of the portico between the columns and pilasters. The entablature has a wide architrave, detailed on the sides with a narrow ogee molding. The applied molding returns at the corners, thus creating a wide name plate on the front of the portico that presently reads "Arlington Arts Center." The overhanging cornice has an ogee bed molding, widely spaced modillions, a plain frieze, and a torus molding. The doublewide entry, presently filled with glazed wood replacement doors, is surrounded with recessed panels of wood and a multi-light transom divided into three parts by wide muntins. The words "Maury School" have been applied to the wide, crosssetted lintel over the opening.

Above the main entry is a large semi-circular arched opening. The opening contains paired 6/1 double-hung, wood sash windows with a wide separating mullion of wood. Like the flanking triple windows seen in the projecting bays, the mullion and surrounds are molded. The top of the opening is detailed with a fixed fanlight window. The lintel is composed of three courses of rowlock bricks with a granite keystone at the center.

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When constructed originally, the side and rear elevations of the school building were identical in massing and detailing. Each elevation is clad on the basement level by stucco. The two openings on the west elevation include four windows with heavy metal muntins. The rear and east elevations have segmentally arched openings with recessed windows. The upper stories, on all three sides of the main block, are pierced by two groups of four window openings, each containing 9/9 double-hung, wood sash. Mimicking the façade, the openings are finished with wide mullions, molded surrounds, and thin muntins. Additionally, the void between the first and second story openings is stuccoed.

The rear addition, placed at the center of the rear elevation, was constructed in 1954. The one-bay-wide, two-bay-deep addition is two stories in height with a flat roof edged in metal coping. Set upon a raised brick foundation with a single course of rowlock bricks as a stringcourse, the addition is constructed of five-course American bond brick. The stairwell, which connects the original building and the addition, is slightly recessed. This recessed hyphen is pierced on the first and second stories by single openings with both fixed and awning windows of metal. The east and west elevations of the addition are identically pierced by multi-light fixed and awning windows of metal windows. The basement level of the side elevations has paired window openings covered with metal security grills. The rear elevation of the addition has a doublewide opening, recessed deeply within the plane of the wall. A multi-light transom tops the replacement doors. Emphasis verticality is the rectangular recessed panel at the center of the south elevation, extending from the first and second stories. The panel is created by brick filling an original window opening.

Interior Description

The interior of the main block of the building, dating from 1910, presently has a central hall plan flanked by large classrooms. The adaptive use of the building has resulted in the loss of original materials, as well as the original interior configuration. Remaining interior architectural details in the main block include elements of the double-entry stair, portions of baseboard, and cabinetry in the basement. The stair is finished with a wood newel posts with recessed panels, wall and stair stringers, and the decorative acorn drops on the landing newels. The eastern portion of the double-entry stair has been enclosed

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with drywall, thus creating additional wall space for exhibits. The stair is fully intact within the enclosure. Carpeting and tile have been applied over the floors throughout the building, and the ceiling has been covered in acoustic tiles consisting of half-inch gypsum wallboard. Presently, the former classrooms serve as studio space and hallways have been converted to gallery space. Partition walls have been erected throughout the original building, further dividing the interior. The basement, retaining its original interior configuration, contained offices for the principal, secretary, and nurse, as well as an eating area and kitchen.

The 1954 addition contains a dog-leg stair, restrooms, and storage space, with few visible alterations. The interior walls of the addition are composed of concrete block partially glazed with ceramic tiles. On the first floor, double-leaf, multi-light doors topped by a multi-light transom mark the entrance into the stair. The double-wide opening on the second floor is filled with flush doors of wood.

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The Clarendon School, 3550 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clarendon School, renamed the Matthew Maury School in 1944, represents the evolution of public education in Arlington County, Virginia during the 20th century. Constructed in 1910 to meet the needs of the growing student population, the Clarendon School is prominently sited at 3550 Wilson Boulevard. The building served the neighboring community of Clarendon for sixty-three years as its sole elementary school, providing instruction to grades one through six. Despite the subsequent growth and development of Arlington County in the second and third quarters of the 20th century as the primary suburb to the nation's capital, the Clarendon School ceased to function as a public education facility in 1973. In 1977, after being vacant for four years, the Clarendon School building was renovated to function as the home of the Arlington Arts Center. Continuing to serve the Clarendon community as an education center, providing art classes, educational programs, and studio space for local artists, the Clarendon School survives as the second oldest extant school building in Arlington County.¹

The three-and-a-half-story Classical Revival style brick building is the work of noted school architect Charles M. Robinson of Richmond, Virginia. Robinson's design illustrates the architectural fashions of the period with projecting front bays capped by enclosed pediments, Palladian windows, limestone keystones, beveled stringcourses, and a prominent wood frame portico with paired Tuscan columns. Recognizing the stature of the imposing building, the school board had a two-story addition of brick erected on the rear elevation. Thus, the architectural design of the building has remained intact with no major alterations or additions visible from the Wilson Boulevard.

The Clarendon School at 3550 Wilson Boulevard in the neighborhood of Clarendon in Arlington County is significant for its contributions to education and architecture for the period between 1910 and 1949. It was recognized locally in 1978 as a historic district of Arlington County. Therefore, the school building meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

¹ The oldest extant school in the county is the Humes Schoolhouse on Ridge Road, which currently houses the Arlington Historical Society.

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Public Education in Arlington County, 1840s-1960s

In the 1840s, the nearby port city of Alexandria was served by ten primary and common schools, as well as eight academic and secondary schools. More than 500 students attended these schools. However, the Arlington area, known then as the "country part of the county," was devoid of public educational facilities. While several more steps were made during this period to establish a system of schools in Arlington, little evidence of actual progress exists.

Deed books document early attempts by residents in Arlington to establish a school on the land of William Birch. Birch had agreed to lease one acre of land for twenty years to the "Committee of Contributors and Builders of a School House." While the exact location of the school has never been determined, it has been suggested that the modest school building was sited in the northwest section of the county. *Minute Books* of the County Court for 1850 noted that a school was in existence on a "new road beginning on the Little Falls Road at William Birch's."²

Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia prior to 1870 was considered a private concern, with members of the upper-class able to tutor their children at home or send them to private schools located in Alexandria and Georgetown. As a rule, publicly funded schools were established for the poor and orphaned. In 1870, however, the Virginia General Assembly adopted an education plan, appointing a State Board of Education to establish free public schools for children of every income level. The Board, in turn, appointed a county superintendent and three trustees for each of the three school districts formed in what would eventually be Arlington County – Washington, Arlington and Jefferson.³

Located on Columbia Pike at Walter Reed Drive, the Columbia School opened in the Arlington district in 1870, and was believed to be the first public school organized in the county. Shortly thereafter, two additional public schools were opened: Walker School at Balls Crossroads and

² Cornelia B. Rose, Jr. *Arlington County Virginia: A History*. (Arlington, VA: Arlington Historical Society, Inc., 1976), p. 90.

³ Lois, Snyderman and the Couture/Denig Partnership. "Historic Resources Survey: 18 Early-Mid Century School Buildings." (Arlington County, VA: December 1991), p. 7.

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the Arlington School for Coloreds at Freedman's Village (now the site of the Pentagon). By 1871, the Jefferson and Arlington school districts consisted of three white and two African-American schools. On October 29, 1870, the first trustees, George R. Adams, Garrett Wibirt, and Harvey Bailey, were sworn in as members of the Arlington District School Board. These appointees were responsible for gathering a census of the school population, hiring teachers, and determining the number and location of schools.

The number of schools increased by 1881 to a total of nine schools, all of which proudly provided outhouses.⁴ Six of the nine were rented buildings, and just two were noted to have "good" furniture. During this period, the number of African-American schools increased to five. Two were located in the Jefferson District (Jefferson and Scott), one in the Washington District (Sumner), and two were in the Arlington District (Freedman's Village and Kemper in Nauck). By the turn of the 20th century, there were eleven schools in the county, four built of brick and seven frame. They had a total of 21 rooms and a seating capacity of 545 in the six structures used for whites, and 555 seats in the five schools used for African Americans. The condition of the schools had also improved – nine of the total eleven had "good" furniture, and all had outhouses and suitable grounds.⁵ The Hume School (1891) at 1805 Arlington Ridge Road is the only extant schoolhouse dating from this period. The Queen Anne style building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

The increase in the county's population and the change in its demographics put new demands on the public education system. Schools needed to be built, curriculums reevaluated, and secondary schools created. The curriculum was gradually expanded to meet the standards of the day and the expectations of the residents. The General Assembly appropriated funds in the early 1900s to encourage the introduction of a new course of instruction, including classes in agriculture, manual training, domestic economy, music and arts. These appropriations also funded the libraries, provided school health programs, and lengthened the school term from five to seven months.⁶ In 1906, as part of a statewide campaign to improve the school system, the General

⁴ Snyderman, p. 27

⁵ Rose, p. 138.

⁶ Snyderman, p. 27.

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Assembly passed the Mann Act, which earmarked \$50,000 for a special high school fund.⁷ The first of these early schools in the Arlington area to go beyond the eighth grade was Mount Vernon, which incorporated high school classes into its curriculum in 1917. Prior to 1917, students seeking a high school education continued their schooling at private institutions or attended the public schools in Washington, DC.

As the residential population of Arlington grew during the World War I to World War II Period (1917-1945), so did the need for school buildings. In 1920, the average daily attendance in the public schools was 2,022. By 1929, it had reached 4,568, despite the annexation by Alexandria. Records show that after 1929, Arlington had twenty school buildings:

<u>Jefferson District</u>	<u>Washington District</u>	<u>Arlington District</u>
Nellie Custis	Cherrydale	Kemper
Hume	Woodmont	Patrick Henry
Jefferson	Saegmuller	Barcroft
	John Marshall	Henry Clay
	John Langston	Clarendon (Maury School)
	Robert E. Lee	Glencarlyn
		Thomas Nelson Page
		James Monroe
		Woodrow Wilson
		Stonewall Jackson
		Washington-Lee

As indicated by the school listing, the north and central districts contained a substantial number of schools. Typically, the children from the Arlington and Washington districts attended high school in the District of Columbia, while the Jefferson District was serviced by the City of Alexandria.

The Great Depression of the 1930s had a direct effect on the Arlington school system, causing delinquent taxes, shortage of funding, and temporary salary and wage cuts. However, the

⁷ Snyderman, p. 27.

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tremendous influx of residents during the 1940s enabled Arlington County to recover rapidly and develop at a rate never before seen in this area. The school population of Arlington County had grown to more than 8,000 by 1940, putting pressure on the existing facilities. Even though all first and second grades were on a half-day system, there were no kindergartens, and no provisions for exceptional children.

The most active period of school construction took place between 1947 and 1960, when Arlington County's population increased 181 percent. The baby boom resulted in the creation of twenty new schools and the expansion and renovation of thirty more buildings. By 1945, there were thirty-four elementary, five junior high, and two high schools in Arlington County. Continuing the trend established in the second quarter of the 20th century, many of these buildings were located in the Washington and Arlington districts.

Another major change in the public schools occurred in 1954, when desegregation was integrated into the Arlington County school system following the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka*. Enrollment in the Arlington Public School system peaked in the early 1960s, however. Since 1968, a steady decline in the number of students has led to the closing and consolidation of several schools in Arlington County.

The Clarendon School, 1910-1973

The Clarendon School was built in 1910 for the School Board of Arlington District No. 2 as an elementary school serving grades one through six. Prior to its construction, students living in Clarendon attended classes in the home of Welby Ashby, located near Clarendon Circle.⁸ Ashby, who also served as teacher, rented two rooms as classroom space for the sum of twenty dollars per month. As the classroom facilities provided by Ashby were not deemed sufficient for Clarendon's growing educational needs, the school board moved forward with plans for the construction of the Clarendon School. An undeveloped two-acre lot of land at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and North Monroe Street was purchased in July 1909 for the sum of \$1,800 from Edward A. and Martha I. Wilson of Indian Lake, New York.

⁸ Maggie Young. "Clarendon." *The Arlington Historical Magazine*. Volume 6, Number 2. Arlington, Virginia: October 1978.

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In October 1909, the School Board of Arlington held a special meeting to consider the bids for constructing the school. The contract was signed for \$12,950, naming Charles M. Robinson of Richmond, Virginia as the architect and M. W. Gayle of Newport News, Virginia as the builder.⁹ Charles Morrison Robinson (1867-1932) was born in Hamilton, Virginia to architect James T. Robinson. Establishing an office in Richmond in 1906, Robinson quickly gained notoriety statewide as a school architect. Scholastic commissions included buildings for James Madison University, Radford University, the College of William and Mary, and Virginia State University. Robinson's architectural style of choice was derived from the fashionable Classical Revival, particularly the Georgian Revival style illustrated in his work at the College of William and Mary and Virginia State University. The architect was also responsible for the designs of numerous elementary and high school buildings throughout Virginia between 1907 and 1935, particularly in Richmond and Norfolk.¹⁰

The American Heating and Ventilating Company was awarded the job in October 1909 to install the heating system, and J. C. Martin School Furnishers of Richmond was to provide the desks, chairs, and blackboards in February 1910. Dissatisfaction with the construction of the building by the summer of 1910 prompted the school board to deduct \$500 from the salary of contractor M. W. Gayle. The minutes of the Arlington County School Board cited the following problems: buckling of the cellar doors, warped cellar windows, the need to fix the panels of the door on the first floor, repair all the rollers in the cloak rooms, repair the stucco on the rear wall, fix the front door, the floors were not level, and the whitewash was not well done. The final construction cost of \$11,500 seemed outrageously high to members of the community in 1910.

Despite these problems, the school opened its doors to 298 students on September 20, 1910. Seven teachers – Margaret B. Hayes, Florence Gravatt, Lucille Long, Beulah Adams, Lucy Lynn, Lulu Taymen, and Gertrude Fugh – were assigned to teach at the Clarendon Elementary School for the 1910-1911 school year.¹¹ Throughout the sixty-three year history of the school,

⁹ Arlington County School Board Minutes. Book 2.

¹⁰ John E. Wells and Robert E Dalton. *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary*. (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997), p. 377-378.

¹¹ Arlington County School Board Minutes. Book 2.

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between five and eight teachers were employed annually to teach grades one through six. Salaries for the teachers ranged from \$800 to \$1,100, plus bonuses by 1922. In 1932, to relieve congestion at Arlington County Schools, the fifth and sixth grade classes from Glencarlynn Elementary School were transferred to the Clarendon School. Playground instructors and summer school teachers were employed by the early 1940s to meet the evolving educational needs of the student population.

In 1944, the name of the Clarendon School was changed to the Matthew Maury School, in keeping with a statewide effort to rename schools to honor native Virginians. Many schools in Virginia were renamed as accolades to Matthew Fontaine Maury, because of the numerous contributions in navigation. Born on January 14, 1806 in Fredericksburg, Virginia, Maury began his naval career with the United States Navy in 1821, being promoted to Lieutenant in 1836. He received no further assignments for sea duty after suffering a major injury in a stagecoach accident in 1839. From 1842 until 1855 and, from 1858 to 1861, Maury served as Superintendent of the Navy Department's Depot of Charts and Instruments with collateral duty as the head of the Naval Observatory and Hydrographic Office. In 1861, Maury resigned from the United States Navy to accept a commission as commander in the Confederate Navy, and later became Secretary of the Navy for the Confederacy. After the Civil War, Maury resided in England, eventually returning to Lexington, Virginia in 1868, where he served as a professor of meteorology at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI).

During his lifetime, Maury published several works that represented his pioneering accomplishments, including textbooks and charts on navigation, ocean geography, and meteorology. Referred to as the "Pathfinder of the Seas" for his contributions to the field of navigation, Maury served as United States representative at various international conferences during his career, visiting such places as Brussels, England, and Mexico. Matthew Maury died on February 1, 1873 and was buried in Richmond, Virginia.

The aging school building was assessed in July 1940 for \$5,500 with the classroom equipment valued at \$500. One year later, the value of the building was decreased to \$3,000. The school board continued to maintain and renovate the structure, replacing the original furnaces with solar furnaces and constructing a rear addition. The 1954 addition, devote of architectural detailing,

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included restrooms, storage facilities, and an enclosed dog-leg stair required by the new fire codes.

By the 1960s, enrollment in the Arlington County School District peaked. During the 1961-1962 school year alone, the school board reported that 225 students in grades one through six were enrolled at the Matthew Maury Elementary School.¹² However, with a substantial decline in the student population the following decade, the Maury School was closed at the end of the 1972-1973 school year. Students were rerouted to Long Branch and Page Elementary Schools. The imposing structure, a landmark for the Clarendon community, remained vacant for a number of years following the closing of the elementary school.

Matthew Maury School Building as the Arlington Arts Center, 1977-present

In 1977, the Arlington Arts Center requested and received the surplus building for use as a studio space for local artists. A non-profit organization, the Arlington Arts Center offered art classes, educational programs, and exhibitions, while providing quiet studio space for burgeoning artists. Following minor interior alterations to assist the art center, the Maury School building continues to serve the Clarendon area in this capacity. Since 1977, the Arlington Arts Center has presented over 230 exhibitions.

¹² Arlington County School Board. *The Arlington Story, 1962* (Arlington, VA: The County School Board of Arlington County, 1962), p. 89.

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Continuation Sheet

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Section number Photographs Page 15

All photographs are of:

**THE CLARENDON SCHOOL
3550 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia
VDHR File Number: 000-0453
E.H.T. Traceries, Inc., photographer**

All negatives are stored with the Department of Historic Resources:

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Northwest Corner; view
looking southeast
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 1 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: South Elevation; view
looking north
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 5 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Façade; view looking south
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 2 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Southeast Corner; view
looking northwest
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 6 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Northwest Corner; view
looking southeast
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 3 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Northeast Corner; view
looking southwest
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 7 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: West Elevation; view looking
east
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 4 OF 12

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

The Clarendon School, 3550 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia

Section number Photographs Page 16

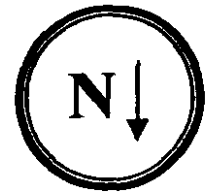
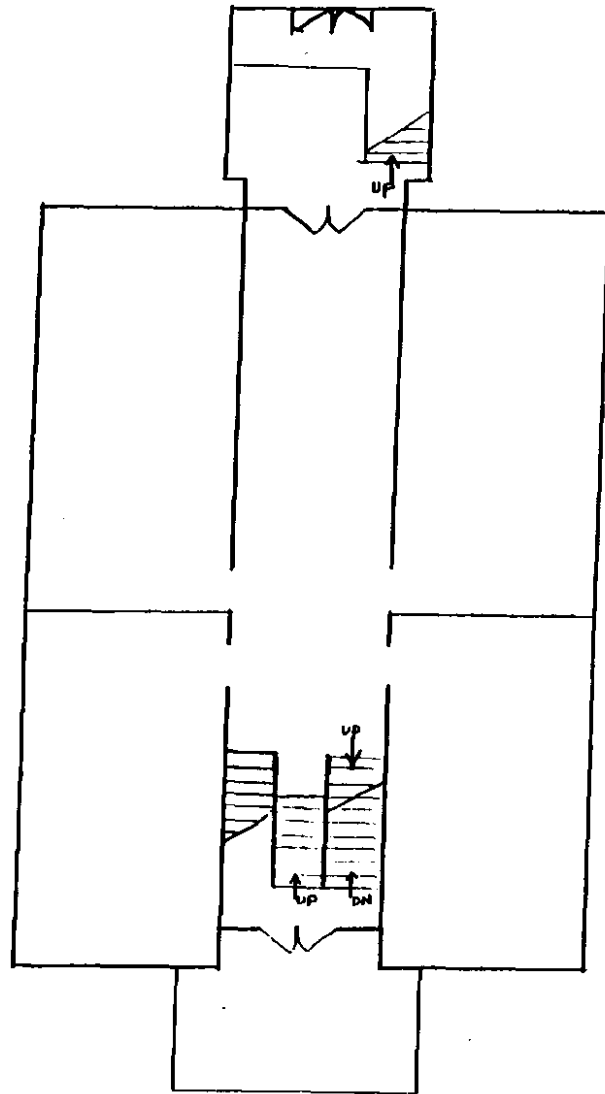
DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: First Floor; view looking
north
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 8 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Main Stair; view looking
south to second floor
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 9 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Second Floor.; view looking
north to main stair
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 10 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Second Floor of Stair in
Addition; view south to first floor
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 11 OF 12

DATE: March 1999
VIEW OF: Basement; view looking
south
NEG. NO.: 17457
PHOTO: 12 OF 12



**CLARENDON SCHOOL
3550 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VA**

**CONJECTURAL FIRST FLOOR
AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED**

Not to scale



CLARENDON
SCHOOL
3550 WILSON BLVD
ARLINGTON
18/317645/4305540

380 000 FEET
(MD.)

38° 52' 30" N
77° 07' 30" W



(ANNANDALE)
5561 / SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, NCPS, and WSSC

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs. Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland coordinate system, and Virginia coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18
1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 8 meters south and 26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

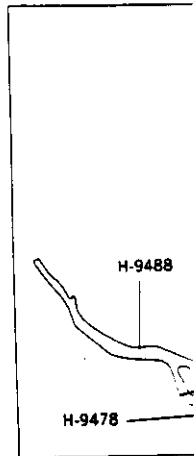
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This information not field checked
Map edited 1983

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC SERVICE



HYDROGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Survey Number	Survey Date
H-9478	1977
H-9488	1976



NO 1983
ON AT CE