

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

**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Kelly Miller School

Other names/site number: Kelly Miller Community Center (current); Water Street School (original); Clarksburg Colored School (colloquial); HS-1022

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**2. Location**

Street & number: 408 E.B. Saunders Way

City or town: Clarksburg State: West Virginia County: Harrison

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

**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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

	Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
<u>10/1/24</u>	
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<u>West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Arts, Culture and History</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<hr/>	
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION – School  
RECREATION AND CULTURE – Sports Facility

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL – Civic  
OTHER – Community Building  
WORK IN PROGRESS  
RECREATION AND CULTURE – Sports Facility  
COMMERCE/TRADE – Business

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER – Eclectic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: STONE; Walls: BRICK;  
Roof: ASPHALT & SYNTHETIC – Rubber; Other: BRICK, STONE; CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Kelly Miller School is located in the City of Clarksburg, in north-central West Virginia. It occupies a city lot along E.B. Saunders Way (formerly Water Street) facing east toward Elk Creek. This largely residential neighborhood was the focus of the African American<sup>1</sup> community throughout the first half of the twentieth century. The original three-story brick structure was erected in 1901 by African-American builder Charles D. Ogden, Sr. as the new segregated school for the county. The building's size and appearance changed significantly into 1928 as it was expanded to match the growing student population and improved academic offerings. The final building has an eclectic architectural style, including Art Deco in the fourth-story parapet brickwork but Tudor Revival-like decoration at the ground floor entrances.<sup>2</sup> After de-segregation, the school closed in 1957 but continued to be used by the Harrison County Board of Education (BOE), who made several changes to the interior to convert the gymnasium, swimming pool, and larger interior rooms into storage and additional office space. In 2017, the building was donated to the West Virginia Black Heritage Festival, Inc. (WVBHF) which is actively working to restore some of these original spaces while also allowing the building to serve the modern community. These changes have diminished the historic integrity of the building in some ways, while preserving it in others.

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### Narrative Description

#### SETTING

Kelly Miller School is located at the edge of downtown Clarksburg, which is the seat of Harrison County, West Virginia (Figure 1). It occupies the entire lot (three tax parcels) between E.B. Saunders Way, Lee Avenue, and Ben Street with the exception of a paved parking area along its front face and E.B. Saunders Way (Figure 2a). The

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<sup>1</sup> The identifier "African-American" will be used throughout this form, with other terms only included if they appear in the names of referenced buildings, organizations, titles, documents, or quotations.

<sup>2</sup> Other Clarksburg schools from this time period had similar eclectic architecture, as shown in photographs collected by Cork (2009). Also note Towers Grade School (c. 1895) was similar to the original one-tower plan of Kelly Miller.



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building faces Elk Creek and is less than 200 feet from its banks (Photo 12). Due to the natural rise of the area, the east (front) building elevation begins at the ground floor while the west (rear) begins at the first floor (Photos 1, 15, and 19).

The school is located in a largely residential neighborhood that includes historic African-American churches like Mt. Zion Baptist, Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME), and Trinity Memorial Methodist Episcopal (ME) that were all located adjacent to Kelly Miller School (Figure 2a).<sup>3</sup> Trinity was notable as the county's only African-American historic property on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP; 84003584), although it is no longer standing.

According to personal communication with Crystal Wimer, the former Executive Director of the Harrison County West Virginia Historical Society (HCWVHS), this neighborhood has long been the focus for the local African-American community; however, it was excluded from the adjacent Clarksburg Downtown Historic District (82004794) and Quality Hill Historic District (85001815).<sup>4</sup> Although there are African-American businesses and other associated structures throughout the City of Clarksburg, research for this form focused primarily on this neighborhood surrounding Kelly Miller School. This is currently considered to include the streets south of Washington Avenue (formerly Mechanic Avenue) from Second Street to Clay Street south of Quality Hill, with a particular focus along Monticello Avenue, Ben Street, and E.B. Saunders Way (formerly Water Street).<sup>5</sup>

## BUILDING PLAN AND TIMELINE OVERVIEW

The original 1901 brick structure was three stories and 66 x 75 feet in plan centered on the parcel, with a belltower and main entrance protruding from the center of the front elevation (Figures 6, 11, and 12). The building had a hipped, moderately-steep roof with a central chimney, while the belltower had a steeper hipped roof and large arched openings for the bell. Only the front (7/7/8 bays) and north side (all 7 bays) of the school are visible in available historic photographs, but these are both symmetrical with a stone-faced ground level and two-over-two light windows that will be described in

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<sup>3</sup> Mt. Zion Baptist depicted in Photo 14; Allen Chapel AME depicted in Photo 13; former location of Trinity Memorial ME depicted in Photo 22; Their locations also appear on 1911 and 1924 Sanborn maps (Figures 6 and 7).

<sup>4</sup> See Dudley (1986) and Monroe (1986) for discussions about the neighborhood, homeownership, and businesses. Future research should include redrawing boundaries for the downtown district or delineating boundaries for a Clarksburg African-American Historic District. Ms. Wimer made preliminary observations about higher-than-expected rates of home ownership in the neighborhood, and a possible boarding house for Kelly Miller students on Clay Street. The addresses included in 1931 and 1932 obituaries (Tetrick 1933a; 1933b) show concentrations of African-Americans in this neighborhood. One of its churches, Mt. Zion Baptist, moved into the neighborhood in 1913 and was pastored by Clarksburg's first African-American council member and mayor, David Kates, who also founded the anti-racism Clarksburg Unity Project (Potapchuk 2001).

<sup>5</sup> Note that the other street abutting Kelly Miller School is Lee Avenue (formerly Steel Street, per 1911 and 1924 Sanborn maps [Figures 6 and 7]). Most of the described streets are depicted on Figure 5.

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more detail below. The front entrance to the school is recessed with a wide, round arch and what appears to be large transom windows above the door. Given the height of the exterior staircase leading to this door, the entrance area must have been split-level. The 1911 Sanborn map (Figure 6) suggests a front foyer and central hallway running the remaining length of the building, with four large rooms presumably per level, which is consistent with a 1907 description of “six large recitation rooms, an office, four basement rooms, and...[an] assembly hall...” as well as a 470-book library.<sup>6</sup>

The school’s size and exterior appearance changed significantly into 1928 (Figures 14 to 16), then a final internal update in 1931 when the swimming pool was installed. Some specifics of these changes and the final iteration of the building will be described below, but the overall building was (and is) rectangular with four stories and a footprint of 100 x 120 feet. There are more than 50 total rooms depicted in all the engineering designs, dating from 1983 on. Based on the exterior brick colorations (Photos 9, 17, and 20), the building was first expanded west almost to the parcel’s edge for a rear addition and later south across the neighboring parcels for the gymnasium addition, with the latter apparently involving the removal of two residences as seen when comparing the 1911 and 1924 Sanborn maps (Figures 6 and 7).

It was in 1920 (or possibly 1919<sup>7</sup>) that the fourth story was added with a “flat” roof (slight butterfly-slope for drainage; currently tar paper [Figures 29 to 33]) and Art Deco parapets (described below), but no sources were found that confirm the dates of the west and south additions although an identical date may be implied in a 1986 Clarksburg history, which also lists a new gymnasium, additions to the “basement,” and remodeling the chapel into a 368-person auditorium with a stage.<sup>8</sup> The brick for the fourth story does appear to match the brick of the gymnasium addition, and the stone entrance plaques (described below) post-date the school’s 1920 name change, supporting contemporary 1920 construction. However, the date for the west addition continues to be unconfirmed for the author (it is present on the 1924 Sanborn map [Figure 7]). In either case, by 1928 all building enlargements were completed and the school now had “basement and attic storage areas, a large gymnasium, a spacious library, a well-equipped home economics laboratory, a manual arts workshop, 22 airy classrooms, and a balcony and stage within an auditorium that would seat 800 persons.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Robinson 1907*

<sup>7</sup> *LeRoy 1995, 52 and Monroe 1995, 53 list 1919, whereas Dudley 1986, 106 is 1920. Construction may have spanned the years.*

<sup>8</sup> *Dudley 1986 (106), which does not include any sources. This “old chapel room” is assumed to be the assembly hall in Robinson (1907) and its location within the building is not known. It is not the same as the current auditorium*

<sup>9</sup> *Dudley 1986, 106, but note that Monroe (1995) quotes the same language with a 1929 date and adds that the auditorium had a projection room and sat 825 people. Construction may have spanned the years. Shriver (2023) mentions an intercom system.*

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## EXTERIOR

### *East (Front) Elevation*

The main parking area in front of the building includes only one row of parking spots, with a curbed area positioned in one spot that includes the Kelly Miller Community Center sign (Photos 1, 10, and 14). The area between the parking lot and building is a garden bed/lawn elevated by a concrete retaining wall that is incorporated into a L-shaped wheelchair ramp (Photo 13) to both entrances as well as a short flight of stairs to the “main” north entrance. Historically, the entrances were level with the street (Figures 15 and 16), so the area must have been regraded at some point after 1956. The small shrubs have all been removed as of 2024.

The front of the building is characterized by two “towers” that protrude less than 5 feet from the main façade with a brick pilaster at the front corners (Photos 7 and 11) and each include a highly decorative main entrance. The northern “tower” is presumably remodeled from the original belltower (Figures 11 and 12), which was removed at an unknown date – likely by 1920 when the fourth story was constructed.

The building is faced with brick, with the exception of the flush portions of the first story<sup>10</sup> composed of smooth-dressed limestone or faux limestone(?<sup>11</sup>) (Photo 11). This limestone includes a projecting, decorative string course separating the first and second floors. There is a second string course of apparently similar style separating the fourth floor from the brick parapet that encircles the entire roof. These parapets include cream-colored brick in Art Deco motifs across the front and sides of the towers, as well as at the top outer corners of the building – all extending down into the fourth story (Photos 8 and 9). They were originally even taller above the towers (Figures 14 and 16), but that has since been removed. It should be noted that the fourth-story brick is slightly darker than the lower floors (Photo 9), indicative of its separate construction date. There is also a slight difference in the mortar between the original part of the school and the southern gymnasium addition.

The two towers break the front façade into five symmetrical sections, with three bays on the outermost “flush” sections (originally two-over-two light windows with a transom window, curved lintel of soldier-coursed brick [except for the fourth story which has a flat lintel], and stone sill), three large bays in the central “flush” section (originally triple two-over-two light windows with transom windows, a flat lintel of soldier-coursed brick, and a

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<sup>10</sup> Although the engineering designs (Figures 3, 8, 9, and 10) label “Ground,” “First,” “Second,” and “Third” floors, this form describes them throughout as four floors with “Ground” being “First,” for better objectivity/clarity. Some historical accounts use “Basement.”

<sup>11</sup> The material could be concrete and appears to have been painted over across the first floor, given the consistency between the wall and the filled windows. For consistency, all the non-brick stone/concrete features will be described in this form as “stone.” Spalling of the material in some places supports the idea that it is a concrete coating over concrete block.

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stone sill), and one large bay on the tower sections (originally triple two-over-two light windows with transom windows, a flat lintel of soldier-coursed brick [2nd and 4th stories] or of stone paneling [3rd story], and a stone sill) (Figures 14 and 16; Photo 9). The first-floor bays have different treatments, with no sill or transom window (possibly a separated transom window; Figures 14 and 16; Photo 11) and a recessed entrance.

These two entrances both have an elaborate stone Tudor arch below two raised stone shields laid into the brick and a large stone plaque with the building's name, all enclosed by an extension of the first/second floor string course (Photos 2, 3, 5, and 6). The north entrance plaque reads "Kelly Miller School", while the south plaque reads "Auditorium & Gymnasium," both in a Tudor-esque font. The entrances' covered area is walled by stone panels similar to those between tower windows and has double doors below a full-width window (originally) with narrow millions or muntins. Note that the third story windows in the towers include a three-sided stone element around the lintel which mimics the string course around the entrance (Photo 7). The total effect of the Kelly Miller School's front is an eclectic architectural style, including Art Deco in the fourth-story parapet brickwork and Tudor Revival at and above the entrances.

In the present, the entrance doors have been replaced and all of the windows have been replaced by modern one-over-one lights with many bays partially covered for smaller windows or entirely covered. Air conditioners were installed in many of these covered areas. The first floor has been painted over, obscuring the filled openings above the windows. These changes likely occurred c. 1982, when the building was renovated to become the Harrison County BOE offices.<sup>12</sup> A c. 1955 photograph at West Virginia University (WVU) Libraries shows the parapets and windows intact (Figure 16). The north entrance has two commemorative plaques installed by the Kelly Miller Association in 1978 and 1984 (Photo 4).

While the structure's front was (and remains) symmetrical, the other elevations have windows and doors of varying sizes and configurations to fit the needs of the interior. Note that none of the available engineering designs accurately depict these bays.

### *North (Side) Elevation*

There is a narrow, paved strip for parking between this side of the building and Lee Avenue, with a ground surface that slopes by a few feet from the northwest corner downhill to the northeast (Photo 15). This is the only other elevation visible in historical photographs (Figures 15 and 16), albeit at a steep angle that obscures many details. The elevation originally had a repeating pattern on each of the floors of seven symmetrical bays with the same window treatments as the outermost windows on the building's front (Figures 11 and 12). When the rear addition was added historically,

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<sup>12</sup> *Firsthand accounts (e.g. Meredith 2003) say the BOE took possession in January 1982. Renovations were completed in 1983, based on available engineering designs and LeRoy 1995.*

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three new symmetrical bays were added with the same features (Photo 17). The Art Deco brick decoration at the corners also matches that of the front, while the decorative string course continues above the fourth story but not above the first story (Photo 15).

Unlike the front elevation, several windows were added between the originals that have the same width and stone sill but no lintel (Photos 15 and 17). All of these new windows are now fully covered, while the remaining windows are all at least partially covered and some with AC units. One of the second story original windows was replaced with two separate windows of the same width but no stone sill, while one of the first story windows was replaced with a larger size.

The original door configuration is not known, but there are currently two standard doors at ground level and one double door that requires a staircase cutting into the ground surface to gain entry on the uphill side (Photo 15). It has a curved opening that may have been intended to match the front entrances.

The brick is more obviously different on this elevation, with a more orange color for the three-story rear addition and a dark color across the fourth story (Photo 17). Note that the beltcourse shifts upward at the break between the original building and rear addition, shortening the first-floor window bays and likely as a way to adjust for the elevation change (Photo 15).

In 2023, after the majority of this form was prepared, a 28-foot-tall<sup>13</sup> mural was installed at the eastern edge of this elevation from just above the string course into the fourth story (Photo 16). Art Chair Joel Dugan and students from Fairmont State University painted it in sections on aluminum panels that were installed onto the brick.<sup>14</sup> Although the mural is dedicated to a local community leader, Mary Hunt, it depicts scenes from the building's history and current use and was designed under consultation with community members.<sup>15</sup> From top to bottom, it depicts E. B. Saunders, the historical appearance of Kelly Miller School, Mt. Zion Baptist, a basketball and football player, a marching band in the school's orange and black, a teenager wearing Yellow Jacket's logo, references to the modern community garden, a child with a crate referencing the modern food pantry, a dog modeled after Mary Hunt's own "Izzy," and seed packets with the artist names and dedication (Photos 28 and 29).<sup>16</sup>

### *West (Rear) Elevation*

There is a sidewalk on this side of the building along Ben Street, with a ground surface that slopes by a few feet from the southwest corner downhill to the northwest (Photo

<sup>13</sup> Shaver 2023; This article depicts the mural being painted in three separate sections which are each composed of multiple small panels with rivets.

<sup>14</sup> Lamp 2023; Images of installation can be found in Meffert (2023).

<sup>15</sup> Lamp 2023 and Shaver 2023

<sup>16</sup> Meffert 2023

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19). The original configuration of this elevation is not known due to a lack of historic-period photos; however, irregularities in the brick suggest that the large second- and third-story bays right of the main rear entrance were later additions and that there have been many changes to the rear of the gymnasium addition. These two sections are discussed separately below. Note that the first floor on this elevation is partially below ground and has no bays, although there are three small doors at the ends and center of the gymnasium section at street level (Photos 19 and 26). This will be discussed further in the Interior discussion below, but the south corner door leads to an enclosed staircase to the third floor (Photo 52), while the others lead to the gymnasium balcony (Photo 34).

The Art Deco brick decoration at either corner and the center of the elevation match those of the other sides, while the decorative string course continues above the fourth story (Photo 19). The brick is obviously different on this elevation, with a more orange color for the three-story rear addition (excepting some darker “patches”) and a dark color across the fourth story and gymnasium addition (Photos 20 and 21). Note that all of the windows on this elevation are covered over except small one-over-one light windows and AC units.

For the original, northern half of the elevation, there were likely seven symmetrical bays with the right side matching the surviving original windows on the left side of the main entrance, which are identical to the original curved windows on the other elevations (Photo 19). On the second floor, the central bay consists of a recessed split-level entrance which very likely mirrors the original split-level front entrance described above. It has a short concrete staircase, double doors, two stacked transom windows, and sidelights. On the third floor, the central bay matches the width of the entrance with a stone sill but no lintel (Photo 20). On the fourth floor, the central bay is narrow – matching the typical window width across the building – with large matching bay on either side – which may mean they were original (Photo 20). These fourth-floor windows have flat lintels of soldier-coursed brick, and possibly brick sills. All windows on the second floor have no sill (Photos 19 and 20).

For the southern gymnasium half of the elevation, there appear to have been symmetrical but non-repeating bay patterns on each floor that do not match the normal stories due to the tall height of the gymnasium interior and the staircases that flank it (Photos 21 and 34). The second-floor windows are covered by a board (unlike all the other building bays that appear to be filled in entirely) but visible from the interior (Photo 39) and consists of the same two-over-two light windows with a transom as the other original windows (e.g. Figure 16). The original third and fourth floor bays are likely all modified, due to irregularities and lines visible in the brick (Photo 21).

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### *South (Side) Elevation*

The original configuration of this elevation is not known due to a lack of historic-period photos and the current configuration is only partially visible due to the building immediately abutting the neighboring parcel with a private residence and fences blocking access to the narrow area between buildings (Photos 25 and 26). The window bays that are visible are irregularly sized and placed, with brick sills but no lintels (Photo 26). This irregularity is likely the result of the interior staircases and split-levels, as well as the tall gymnasium and auditorium ceilings. The interior of the gymnasium reveals three sets of triple two-over-two light windows with transom windows that are now covered over with brick, as well as a double window with transom lights, only the latter of which are still in use (Photos 36, 38, and 40). If Figure 22 truly shows Kelly Miller's gym interior sometime between 1942 and 1946, these were originally single windows.

This side of the building was not ornamented, presumably since it did not face a street. The fourth-floor Art Deco brick is present at either corner but the fourth-floor decorative string course ends just after turning onto this elevation (Photo 26). Similarly, the painted stone belt course ends at the ground level just after turning onto this elevation (Photo 26).

### *INTERIOR*

The interior contains various offices, classrooms, bathrooms, and other spaces on each floor, as well as a large gymnasium, large auditorium, and attic. Some sources included general information about room counts and functions, but they cannot be perfectly matched with the current building. This information is listed in the Building Plan and Timeline Overview above, rather than being repeated here, along with a discussion of historical renovations. Also see Figure 3 for a note regarding limitations and discrepancies in the designs.<sup>17</sup>

The interior has also been remodeled to accommodate continued use of the building. For example, the original wood flooring is carpeted over in most areas (but see Photo 47), classrooms were subdivided into smaller offices or with low partitions to form cubicles, the heating/cooling and electrical systems were updated, and drop ceilings are common, but not ubiquitous. A central elevator was installed sometime before BOE office renovations (c. 1982).

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<sup>17</sup> Room identifications and layout are heavily based on the annotated designs (Figures 3) created by the author through comparison with other historical engineering designs (Figures 8, 9, and 10), the author's recollection and notes from a building tour with Sherri and Dorian James (WVBHF) on March 2, 2021, and personal recollections by current BOE employee Jeffrey Atin Norton and his colleagues who all worked there ≤2017. There are over 50 rooms, so only those of importance and a representative sample were photographed and discussed at the James' discretion. Per personal communication with Mr. James, the restoration plans in Thrasher (2017a [Figure 10]; 2017b) designs were not undertaken. The author notes that Thrasher designs often match Figure 9 (Harrison County BOE 1983) rather than the actual interior in 2017. None of the available designs correctly depict the windows.

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### *First (Ground) Floor*

The 1911 Sanborn map (Figure 6) depicts a front foyer and central hallway running the remaining length of the building with two large rooms on either side. This layout is still somewhat visible in the designs (Figure 3a), although three of these rooms have been subdivided along with the rear part of the hallway, likely in part to accommodate the rear addition of unknown age ( $\leq 1920$ ) that would later hold the swimming pool (1931).

The original four classrooms on this floor were renovated at unknown dates to respectively become the gym locker rooms, manual arts workshop, male/female bathrooms, and boiler room (see Figure 3a). The shop was converted back to an office c. 1982 for the BOE (Photo 41), the bathrooms updated (Photos 42 and 43), and the swimming pool filled in to become their printing room (now used by KMCC as an adult fitness center [Photo 44]).

While these former classrooms are modernized, the gymnasium ( $\leq 1920$ ) survives in its largely original format, despite being used as the BOE book supply room, and is currently being restored (Photos 34 to 40). This room is two stories tall but will be described in full here, including its balconies. The floor appears to be concrete, with built-in, tiered seating and steps on three sides (Figure 8a). The walls were thought to be concrete as well, but the only found historical photo of its interior – dated between 1942 and 1946 – shows smaller windows and exposed brick (Figure 22). The windows are described with the exterior West and South Elevations above, consist of naturally-colored wood, and are covered by protective wire mesh (Photos 36, 39, and 40). At some point, the basketball equipment included the early adoption of glass banking boards.<sup>18</sup> In addition to front access to the gymnasium foyer, the first floor has at least one side door to the original part of the building (Figure 3a; Photo 35). The second floor has front access to a staircase that will be described with the Second Floor below (Figure 3a), and two rear doors to Ben Street (Photo 19) – one in the center of the rear balcony and one to the upper part of the side balcony (Photo 34). The room's second-story also has seating in the form of a "hanging" metal balcony on three sides with wooden(?) seating and steps and attached to the exposed metal ceiling beams (Figure 9b; Photos 35 and 37). Pipes and hanging lights are visible across the exposed beams.

Staircases provide access to the second floor from the main and the gymnasium foyers. Although it isn't accessible from the gymnasium, the enclosed staircase described with the exterior West Elevation is visible at the southern corner of the rear wall and connects Ben Street with the third floor (Figures 8a to 8c; Photos 26 and 34). Doors between the main and gymnasium halves have varied over time (see all designs).

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<sup>18</sup> Bill Jackson, *Washington Irving (WI) Class of 1943*, quoted in Meredith 2012



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### *Second Floor*

Designs reflect the same layout as the first floor, with the large gymnasium (described with the First Floor above) and a central hallway running the length of the main half of the building – albeit with a rear entrance to Ben Street and a file room instead of a front foyer (Figure 3b). There appear to have been six large classrooms (or possibly five with bathrooms<sup>19</sup>, if those are original), although most were partitioned and renovated (c. 1982) into over 25 small BOE offices (Figure 8b). Partitions were removed for renovation by WVBHF, with one classroom planned to become a cafeteria and food pantry to serve the community (Photos 45 and 46). The 1944 basketball tournament program mentions a snack bar on the second floor (Figure 33b), but note that this could be the third floor based on the way floors are described in other historical sources.

While these former classrooms are modernized, the gymnasium foyer and its two staircases survive in its largely original form ( $\leq 1920$ ) (Photo 48), with two small, flanking rooms on either side (Figure 8b). The stairs have a metal balustrade with simple geometric decoration in the posts, and a wooden rail. Designs show no doors between the main and gymnasium halves of the building, but there is now a (temporary?) opening at the cafeteria. The main section has the same front staircase to the first and third floors, plus a staircase to the third floor in the main corridor (Figure 3b).

### *Third Floor*

Designs reflect a relatively similar layout to the first and second floors (Figure 3c); however, the gymnasium addition is primarily occupied by the auditorium and the number of classrooms is indeterminate due to the many partitions and renovations on the 1983 designs onward, which depict between approximately 15 and 20 smaller offices. There were likely four classrooms in the original 1901 layout, plus the central corridor and same front file room as the second floor, with one or two additional classrooms in the rear addition of unknown age ( $\leq 1920$ ). Much of this floor appeared to be lease space, likely why it was excluded from the 2021 tour. Designs depict bathrooms in the same placement as those depicted on the second floor and show the file room on a “half-story” with a short staircase for access (Figure 3c).

The large auditorium ( $\leq 1928$ ) is two stories tall but will be described in full here, including its fourth-floor balcony. It has been modernized and was recently used as the BOE boardroom with a built-in desk on the stage that has since been removed (Figure 3c; Photos 49 and 50). The current drop ceiling conceals the original decorative,

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<sup>19</sup> Per Mr. Norton's colleagues, these second-floor bathrooms were moved to the conference and copy machine room locations depicted in Figure 8b (c. 1983a) on the north side. Their recollections, when paired with the designs, support that there were interior changes throughout the BOE's tenure (and/or that Figure 8 labels reflect plans, not actual room assignments). For another example, the nurse area depicted in Figure 8b was a video conference room as of 2017. Both these changes are supported by Figure 3b. These personal communications late in the research process also suggest that Figure 3 – which came from undated designs – is later than the assumed c. 1983.

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arched ceiling and stage rear wall, but they are visible from the (now) enclosed balcony on the fourth floor (Photo 51). This was presumably done for the BOE office renovations c. 1982, and the KMCC hopes to restore the ceiling's visibility in the future. To accommodate for the elevated stage, designs (Figure 3c) show short staircases on either side of the stage to reach the BOE conference room behind it (likely originally a classroom). The balcony was enclosed sometime after 1983.<sup>20</sup>

The auditorium is accessible from the same foyer and double staircase as the gymnasium (Figure 3c), albeit via an enclosed portion of the auditorium rather than directly as in the 1983 designs (Figure 9c). These enclosures were likely for better privacy during BOE meetings, as well as to create an additional office (Figure 3c). The enclosed staircase to Ben Street (also described with the First Floor above) enters the building alongside the auditorium (Photo 52) and also provides direct access to the former auditorium balcony above. It survives in its largely original form (≤1920), with simple wooden railings and a naturally-colored wooden window that is one of the irregularly placed ones described with the exterior South Elevation above. There is a roughly-parallel staircase on the opposite side of the auditorium that also provides access from the auditorium to the balcony (Figure 3d). The staircases described above behind the stage also provide fourth-floor access.

The main half of the building has the same staircases at the front of the building and in the main corridor (Figure 3c). Designs consistently show two access doors between the main and gymnasium halves of the building, one to the room behind the stage and one to the auditorium roughly center on its northern wall (Figure 3c).

#### *Fourth Floor*

Designs reflect a similar layout as the third floor despite its later construction (1920), with an indeterminate number of original classrooms that were heavily partitioned (c. 1982) into over 30 small BOE offices and the large auditorium (described with the Third Floor above), albeit with three additional classrooms along the front of the building instead of the latter's foyer (Figure 3d). Some of these low office partitions are still present (Photo 61) but may likely be removed for additional lease space as was done for the Clarksburg Hung Gar School (Figure 3d; Photo 62) that utilizes some partitions but removed others.

Despite the overall renovations across the floor, it does retain some original classroom elements. Some classrooms have wooden doors with frosted glass and are likely original, including some original hardware (Photos 56 and 57). The only found historical photos of a Kelly Miller classroom – dated to the 1950-1951 school year – show these same doors, as well as two-color walls and a large blackboard on the interior wall

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<sup>20</sup> Compare Figure 9d and 3d. Note that Monroe (1995) mentions a projection room for the auditorium, that would likely have been associated with the balcony.

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(Figures 20 and 21). Rooms appear to retain some original window frames, trim, and closets (some original hardware), but with replacement windows, some drop ceilings, tile or carpet flooring, and other modern materials (Figure 3d; Photos 53 to 55 and 58 to 61).<sup>21</sup>

Since the fourth floor was very likely constructed together as one event, this floor is unsurprisingly the most integrated – with a north/south corridor connecting to the main east/west corridor to join the two halves of the building (Figure 3d; Photo 59). There is also access between the two halves at the room behind the auditorium (Figure 3d). The five staircases providing connection to the third floor are described with that floor above, but the central staircase in the main corridor provides access to the building's attic, which is not depicted in any designs.

The attic survives in its largely original form (1920), with exposed wooden rafters and at least some molded ceramic tile walls (Photo 64). It included storage areas<sup>22</sup> and still contains a large Sturtevant<sup>23</sup> industrial cooling/ventilation system in use (Photos 64 and 65). The attic proves rooftop access via a rooftop entrance enclosure (Photo 32).

## INTEGRITY

The Kelly Miller building is in good condition, but with ongoing interior renovations and updates for its continued use as a community center and headquarters of the West Virginia Black Heritage Festival. These changes are ongoing at the time of writing but include a desire to preserve the historical significance of the building while also allowing it to serve the present-day community.

Major additions before 1928 reflect the school's growth and the importance of its academic, athletic, and community offerings. These include a rear (west) addition that added additional classrooms, as well as a large gymnasium addition that doubled the size of the building and housed a large auditorium. After the school was closed, most exterior windows were replaced, infilled, or entirely covered and the decorative tower parapets were removed (Photos 1, 15, 19, and 26). Interior changes included partitioning classrooms into small office spaces, a new elevator/ductwork shaft, drop ceilings, and other general modernization (Figure 8; e.g. Photos 41, 49, 53, and 61). The surrounding neighborhood includes houses, churches, and businesses that are contemporary with the school, but with modern, multi-story buildings also in the viewshed (e.g. Photos 13, 14, 18, 23, and 27).

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<sup>21</sup> Rooms with specific functions include a computer lab (Photo 54), STEAM classroom (Photo 53), and youth fitness room (Photo 63), respectively adapted from a BOE computer training room, BOE administrative office, and BOE technology repair shop (Figure 3d) after the 2017 donation to WVBHF.

<sup>22</sup> Dudley 1986, 106

<sup>23</sup> An exact date range was not found for the Sturtevant Multivane Fan; however, a photo archive of Sturtevant products (Tocco 2020) consistently dates machines of the same general appearance to the 1920s and 1930s.

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The building retains its integrity of location, with integrity of setting and association that is diminished but still conveys the characteristics of an early twentieth century neighborhood focused on faith, education, and community. Its exterior design is intact, but with the aforementioned changes that diminish its integrity of materials and workmanship without removing its ability to convey the characteristics, feeling, and associations of an early twentieth-century school.<sup>24</sup> Alterations to the interior are more extensive due to post-1956 use (described below), diminishing integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Although it is no longer a school, the efforts of its present-day owners continue the Kelly Miller name and legacy of higher education, fitness, religious life, political involvement, close-knit communities, and sharing African-American heritage with the city – preserving the less tangible aspects of its integrity.

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<sup>24</sup> *These changes are typical of local schools that continued to be used, as observed by the author and in Cork 2009.*

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## 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE – Black  
EDUCATION

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

**Period of Significance**

1902-1957

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

**Significant Dates**

1902 (school opening)

1920 (major renovations and renaming)

1944 (fifth basketball championship)

1957 (school closure due to desegregation)

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

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

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

### *Summary Paragraph*

For over 100 years, Kelly Miller School has been locally significant to the African-American community in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Education (Criterion A), which went beyond 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade instruction to include athletic achievements and musical outreach. Its key period of significance is 1902 (when it officially opened) to 1957 (when it was closed following integration). It is directly associated with early-to-mid twentieth century trends in segregation and integration, the implementation of its namesake's ideas about education, and celebration of African-American history, particularly in the Emancipation Day celebrations that became today's WV Black Heritage Festival. The building continues to act as a hub for community activities, education, and aid led by a living community of descendants, with analogs as specific as book clubs that served – and still serve – the neighborhood.<sup>25</sup> Although the building is not being evaluated against Criterion B, individuals like Reverend James Wesley Robinson, Professor Duncan H. Kyle, Doctor Emmett B. Saunders, Victorine (née Louistall) Monroe, Coach Mark Cardwell, and Bob Wilson did contribute to African-American achievements at the local, state, or even national levels.

### *Contextual Information*

The WVSHPO Interactive Map Viewer and anecdotal evidence from the research of Crystal Wimer (former Executive Director of the HCWVHS) and Iain MacKay (2021 AmeriCorps) shows a startling lack of African-American resources in Harrison County. Although the descendant community survives, their historical places quickly disappeared.<sup>26</sup> Many of the reasons that made Trinity ME Church (84003584) eligible for the National Register<sup>27</sup> prior to being demolished are also applicable to Kelly Miller School, which is a natural replacement as the center of Clarksburg's African-American Community and a visual landmark in the neighborhood.

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<sup>25</sup> For this reason, the building could even be considered a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). See McDonald (2004) for an in-depth discussion of African-American heritage and TCPs.

<sup>26</sup> Trinity ME Church (84003584) was demolished shortly after being placed on the National Register due to its poor condition. For another example, an African-American cemetery was recently discovered in Anmoore, just outside the City of Clarksburg (Valente 2017). This cemetery is mentioned in Tetrick (1933a; 1933b) but its location was unknown until work crews came across the headstones and unmarked graves.

<sup>27</sup> See Collins 1983 for its NRHP nomination criteria and significance.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

This narrative will provide historical context for the significance of Kelly Miller within national and statewide patterns of segregation, then integration – and how these played out in the local community. Following this is a discussion of successes in each area of significance at the school, then the historical context for Kelly Miller’s ongoing importance for the living, descendant community.

*National and State Context: Segregation and Integration*

Although the first West Virginia legislature in 1863 agreed to educate free African-American children, it took time to secure funding, cooperation from all county school boards, and adequate educational facilities. Low racial diversity in much of the state enabled school boards to avoid the requirement, until the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw a growing demand for African-American schools as families entered West Virginia for employment in railroads, mines, etc. Local African-American teachers were trained at Storer College in Harpers Ferry, at West Virginia State College (originally West Virginia Colored Institute then West Virginia Collegiate Institute; now West Virginia State University), and at Bluefield State College (originally Bluefield Colored Institute).<sup>28</sup>

In 1862, Sumner School in Parkersburg became the first African-American primary school to open in the state, followed by schools in Wheeling, Charleston, Lewisburg, Martinsburg, Charles Town, Malden, and our study area in Clarksburg as of 1868.<sup>29</sup> In 1885, Sumner was also the first to add high school, closely followed by Clarksburg, Charleston, and Huntington.<sup>30</sup> By 1902, there were 207 African-American schools serving 7,886 students and by 1923 this included 21 African-American high schools.<sup>31</sup> In some cases, high school students were able to attend from surrounding counties, often boarding in local homes and generally with expenses paid by their home county’s school board.<sup>32</sup> For example, famed West Virginia mathematician Katherine Johnson travelled 130 miles to receive her high school education in Institute, as her hometown of White Sulphur Springs did not provide an African-American high school.<sup>33</sup> African-American students who had to travel within their own county were not reimbursed by the

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<sup>28</sup> This paragraph is adapted from Bickley 2016. See WVCI (1911, 4) for Principal Lee R. “Leroy” Jordan, Class of 1897, and Monroe (1986) for female Kelly Miller alumni who attended WVCI then returned as teachers.

<sup>29</sup> Bickley 2016

<sup>30</sup> Bickley 2016

<sup>31</sup> Bickley 2016

<sup>32</sup> Bickley 2016. This is also due to the County-Unit Plan effected 1933 (Monroe 1995).

<sup>33</sup> Cassidy 2021. White Sulphur Springs would host the state’s worst anti-integration protests, later Ku Klux Klan activity, and white unrest about African-American successes in athletics (Ernest 1954; Stack 2008, 8, 18-19).



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BOE, and often had to find work in order to afford room and board.<sup>34</sup> Harrison County's feeder area included Barbour, Braxton, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Taylor, and Upshur Counties.<sup>35</sup> For general information about early African-American education within West Virginia, see Woodson's 1922 article on "Early Negro Education in West Virginia" and Bickley's 2016 summary of the topic.

After the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case, desegregation began across West Virginia and was largely complete by the mid-1960s, with 88 African-American schools still remaining in January 1964.<sup>36</sup> Both West Virginia Governor William C. Marland and State Superintendent of Schools W.W. Trent agreed to follow the Supreme Court's decision and felt that the only issues would be "administrative," although the latter's push for only county-level planning also included a passive response to threats against African-American students in Greenbrier County.<sup>37</sup> West Virginia's "State Negro School Supervisor" J. W. Robinson also favored desegregation, saying "Negro pupils in general will benefit with a better education... The ruling will open the door to many qualified Negro teachers now looking for jobs and should alleviate the teacher shortage problem in West Virginia."<sup>38</sup> Unfortunately, African-American (and some white) teachers faced lower pay or unemployment after integration, leading to direct involvement by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).<sup>39</sup> For more details on desegregation across the state, see Stack (2008) and for a contemporary breakdown in the *Charleston Gazette*, see Ernest (1954).

According to a contemporary newspaper article<sup>40</sup>, Harrison County was one of 18 counties to delay desegregation, and was the only north-central county to have done so. When its BOE announced a plan for gradual integration of Kelly Miller School, the local chapter of the NAACP raised concerns about the delay with the possibility of joining the lawsuits in other parts of the state.<sup>41</sup> While it ranked behind the 25 counties that had at least partial integration, it did not have the heated protests seen in McDowell, Mercer, and Greenbrier counties.<sup>42</sup> As of 1954, Harrison County was home to 375 African-American students, only 2.2% of county enrollment.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Dudley 1986, 106

<sup>35</sup> Dudley 1986, 106 and Monroe 1995. *Students were recruited for athletics from as far away as Columbus, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, if they had relatives in the area (Meredith 2019).*

<sup>36</sup> Stack 2008, 17

<sup>37</sup> Stack 2008, 5 and Ernest 1954

<sup>38</sup> Stack 2008, 6. *It should be noted that this Robinson may be the same James Wesley Robinson who was principal of Water Street School; however, he would have been 84 years old in 1954. Alternatively, this may be his son, James Welsey Robinson, Jr.*

<sup>39</sup> Stack 2008, 12-14, 21-22

<sup>40</sup> Ernest 1954

<sup>41</sup> Monroe 1986, 92. *See Stack (2008) for more details about NAACP activities.*

<sup>42</sup> Stack 2008, 7-8, 15

<sup>43</sup> Ernest 1954

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### *Local Context: The Early African-American Community in Clarksburg*

Due to the county's lack of terrain suitable for large-scale agriculture, enslaved Africans generally worked in homes and small businesses.<sup>44</sup> The county government firmly upheld Virginia's pro-slavery and anti-abolitionist laws, according to local historian Henry Haymond, although public sentiment was divided.<sup>45</sup> Haymond continues on to inadvertently hint at the problematic family relationships involved in this close co-habitation between masters and slaves, describing the title of "Uncle and Aunt" used for older slaves and heirs "employing" biracial slaves in their family businesses.<sup>46</sup> Haymond goes on to describe African-American men and women of Clarksburg who were known as skilled cooks, servants to nationally famous politicians, a religious speaker, and a "conjurer." Just prior to Emancipation, Harrison County contained approximately 600 people of African descent (<4% of the total population) with these numbers increasing to just under 8% by 1880 then decreasing to less than 500 people in 1910.<sup>47</sup>

There were no African-American churches in Clarksburg before the Civil War, although small groups attended Methodist Episcopal Church and First Baptist Church of Clarksburg.<sup>48</sup> After Emancipation, some African-Americans held church services in the carriage house of Judge Lee, who was a former slave owner, and their congregation grew rapidly – eventually organizing as Trinity Methodist Church in 1866 – and meeting in private homes or in the first school on Water Street (which will be discussed below).<sup>49</sup> Its first permanent pastor was Robert Steele, a local tanner who was ordained as the first pastor of the community's first physical church, which was also built somewhere on Water Street c.1870.<sup>50</sup> In 1907, the small, but active congregation raised funds for an impressive Gothic-Romanesque brick church on adjacent Ben Street and the new structure was used until 1965 as Trinity Methodist Episcopal (ME) Church.<sup>51</sup> Despite being listed to the NRHP in 1983, with a private owner who wanted to renovate the space as a community center, it was already in poor condition and was later demolished. Other African-American churches in the neighborhood include the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (1922) on Monticello Avenue, Mt. Zion Baptist Church which moved to Water Street in 1913 (Figure 19; Photo 14), and the Allen Chapel

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<sup>44</sup> Davis 1970, 78

<sup>45</sup> Haymond 1910, 302-305

<sup>46</sup> According to Monroe (1986, 91), more than a third of African-Americans as of the 1880 census were biracial. Some were given land and homes after Emancipation by their white parents/enslavers.

<sup>47</sup> Davis 1970, 78-79 and Monroe 1986, 91

<sup>48</sup> Davis 1970, 558, 566, 570

<sup>49</sup> Collins 1983, 5 and Davis 1970, 570-71; The former calls the 1866 church the "Negro Church of Clarksburg"; however, this may be vernacular as this does not appear in Davis (1970) or the list of churches in Monroe (1986).

<sup>50</sup> Collins 1983, 5 and Davis 1970, 571; Contradicting the 1870 and 1907 dates, the 1879 Sanborn map (Figure 5) shows the church already located on Ben Street.

<sup>51</sup> Davis 1970, 571 and Monroe 1986, 92; Note that Collins (1983, 5) gives a construction date of 1902, but the 1907 date is backed by a newspaper citation in Davis (1970) and that these three sources have other contradictory details.

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African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church on Water Street, which is depicted on the 1924 Sanborn map (Figure 7; Photo 13).<sup>52</sup>

In her 1986 article on Clarksburg's "Black Community," academic trailblazer, local historian, and Kelly Miller teacher Victorine Louistall Monroe (Figure 27) describes these churches as the center of an economically-oppressed, but self-sufficient community.<sup>53</sup> Despite a degree of physical integration in Clarksburg neighborhoods, African-Americans did not have the same access to jobs and services. Churches taught finances, leadership, and literacy, as well as cared for the poor and sick. The neighborhood included many African-American businesses on Mechanic Avenue, Water Street, Monticello Avenue, and Ben Street listed out in Monroe's article. Water Street itself held a mix of "reputable," middle class homes owned by both African-American and white families.<sup>54</sup>

In addition to the rich religious life and community businesses, the study area was a focus for African-American education even beyond Harrison County, as the city of Clarksburg included West Virginia's second earliest elementary school for African-Americans and one the first high schools for African-Americans.<sup>55</sup> The first school was established in (or maybe prior to) 1867 and met in a loaned, "one-room ramshackled structure," possibly along Monticello Avenue.<sup>56</sup> Its first class had 30 students, all taught by Miss Josephine "Jo" Gee until her marriage two-and-a-half years later.<sup>57</sup> Almost immediately, the BOE began planning a proper brick school, with financial assistance from the Freedman's Bureau, and in 1868 accepted a construction bid from Ira Hart.<sup>58</sup> The actual location(s) of the one-story brick school are unclear in available sources, but former teacher Blanche Dudley goes on to describe the school's movement over two years – first at the West End of Clarksburg at the corner of Main and Ferry Streets, second and briefly on Water Street (near the current Kelly Miller building), and third on Cemetery Street (now South Chestnut) near the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Cemetery (Figure 4) – before it was finally ready for use in 1870. It was simply known as the "Colored School." In 1899, the BOE purchased a plot of land along Water Street (Figure 6), then accepted a plan from Silas Dawson to design a new, three-story

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<sup>52</sup> Davis 1970, 558, 597 and Monroe 1986, 92; Note that both ME and Baptist churches in Clarksburg had enslaved African-Americans attendees, per Davis (1970, 558, 566), and this is likely the reason these denominations remain prominent in the community today. See Davis (2010) for details about the history of Mt. Zion.

<sup>53</sup> Monroe 1986

<sup>54</sup> Dudley 1986, 106

<sup>55</sup> Bickley 2016; Davis 1970, 622; Woodson 1922, 30-32

<sup>56</sup> Davis 1970, 622, Dudley 1986, 106, and Woodson 1922, 30-31

<sup>57</sup> Woodson 1922, 30

<sup>58</sup> Dudley 1986, 106; In September 1867, the BOE resolved to build a proper structure. In October, they resolved to purchase a lot from Henry Ira Hart for \$373, with \$200 coming from the Freedman's Bureau. In July 1868, they accepted a bid for \$1,147 from Ira Hart, who is presumably the former landowner. Note that "Henry" is not included in his name in other available records.

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segregated school.<sup>59</sup> It was built by Charles D. Ogden, Sr. a local African-American mason and contractor who also built at least one white school (Alta Vista), appears as a builder on several Sanborn maps, and had done some improvements to the Cemetery Street school location.<sup>60</sup>

In January 1902, "Water Street School" opened with ten classrooms, an office, and assembly hall, teaching eight grades plus three years of high school (Figures 11 and 12).<sup>61</sup> The first principal at this location was James Wesley Robinson (Figure 25) from 1901 to 1909, who would be key in developing its rigorous curriculum.<sup>62</sup> He went on to other schools after Kelly Miller, but returned to Clarksburg in 1922 as the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist across the street (Figure 19).<sup>63</sup> He was described by a contemporary as "one of the leading educators and Baptists preachers of the State."<sup>64</sup>

J.W. Robinson was followed by Lee R. Jordan, principal from 1909 to 1919.<sup>65</sup> As of 1907, there were just under 200 students in eleven grades, in 1908 the fourth year of high school was added, and in 1911 there were 205 students, with six teachers.<sup>66</sup> Each class was small, with two students graduating in the Class of 1902, three students in the Class of 1911, and six in the Class of 1912.<sup>67</sup>

Details of building additions/alterations and the relevant sources are discussed in the Building Plan and Timeline Overview above, but the BOE added a fourth story to the building in 1920, and possibly other major changes (Figure 6 cf. Figure 7). The contractors for all the additions and renovations are unknown. Also in 1920, the school's name was officially changed to "Kelly Miller School," after "much discussion and [unspecified] controversy," in honor of their commencement speaker in 1918.<sup>68</sup> Prof. Miller was then the Dean of Howard University and a nationally-famed lecturer, whose views on comprehensive African-American education (both classical and vocational) inspired the school's curriculum.<sup>69</sup> The school reached its current, peak size in 1928 (Figures 13 to 16) and boasted a gymnasium, library, home economics

<sup>59</sup> Dudley 1986, 106, LeRoy 1995, and Robinson 1907, 270; In June 1899, the BOE purchased a lot from Benjamin F. Shuttleworth for \$1,000. A year later, they accepted a bid for \$10,700 from Mr. Ogden, who died shortly after completing construction. Final costs for the building and equipment were almost \$20,000.

<sup>60</sup> Dudley 1986, 106 and Monroe 1986, 106. The bid for the brick Alta Vista school appears in a 1902 edition of *The Clarksburg Telegram* (Figure 32).

<sup>61</sup> Dudley 1986, 106 and Robinson 1907, 270

<sup>62</sup> Caldwell 1923 and Woodson 1922, 32

<sup>63</sup> Caldwell 1923, Davis 2010, and Woodson 1922, 32; Mt. Zion continues to be closely connected to the community center and thus is depicted on the 2023 Mary Hunt Mural.

<sup>64</sup> Caldwell 1923. He was also a member of the Advisory Council to the State BOE (Woodson 1922, 32) and superintendent of the School for the Deaf and Blind (Davis 2010). See Footnote 38 regarding a possible role as West Virginia's "State Negro School Supervisor."

<sup>65</sup> Monroe 1995, which calls him "Leroy Jordan." Mr. Jordan was a WVSC graduate, per his letter in WVCI 1911, 4.

<sup>66</sup> LeRoy 1995, Robinson 1907, 271, and WVCI 1911, 4

<sup>67</sup> LeRoy 1995 and WVCI 1911, 4. The first class to graduate from a Clarksburg African-American school was three people in 1895, two of whom became teachers. In the next eleven years, 40 graduated (Robinson 1907, 270).

<sup>68</sup> Dudley 1986, 106 and LeRoy 1995

<sup>69</sup> Dudley 1986, 106

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laboratory, manual arts workshop, 22 classrooms, and the current 825-person auditorium.<sup>70</sup> When the updated building was dedicated in 1929, Mr. Kelly Miller was once again the speaker.<sup>71</sup> The final significant addition was the installation of a swimming pool in June 1931, just off of the gymnasium's second story.<sup>72</sup> All of these improvements took place under the leadership of Dr. Emmett B. Saunders, who was principal from 1919 to closure c. 1956.<sup>73</sup> The school during this time was now one of, if not *the*, leading African-American high school in West Virginia.

Throughout her 1986 article, Victorine Louistall Monroe describes how many of Kelly Miller School's teachers and students lived and worked in the surrounding streets, and supported the local businesses, who also gave back to support school programs. For example, due to segregation, it was the community who housed other teams during athletic tournaments.<sup>74</sup> For another example, the local women's book club, founded in 1913, gave back with scholarships to Kelly Miller valedictorians.<sup>75</sup>

Like many Black high schools throughout the state, Kelly Miller existed not just for the students, but for the parents, staff and administrators. Prior to integration the Black school was a focal point of the Black community. It served as a rallying point, a social center, and an institution with which the Black community could identify. The Black school had a close relationship with organizations within the community and with sponsoring groups by providing a place for them to meet, while these groups, in turn, often worked to raise money for the school and participated in other general support activities. The relationship between the school and the community was deeper, however, than the mere use of the school for community activities. School-sponsored activities drew almost the entire Black community. Plays performed by teachers, student performances, carnivals, and minstrel shows all raised funds for the school and provided entertainment for the community.<sup>76</sup>

### *Successes at Kelly Miller School*

Thanks in part to the educational philosophy of Professor Kelly Miller, the school that bore his name was known for its rigorous and expansive curriculum, as well as the high level of education and skill in its staff. For example, former student Mike McGee (Figure 30) describes learning algebra in junior high instead of high school, and being required

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<sup>70</sup> Monroe 1995, but see Footnotes 8 and 9 for dating difficulties

<sup>71</sup> Monroe 1995

<sup>72</sup> Dudley 1986, 106; Coach Cardwell supervised men/boys swimming on Monday to Wednesday, with plans to find a female instructor so women/girls could swim Thursday to Saturday. Contemporary accounts of "WV Swimming Pool" in Meredith (2012) shed light on this practice, as students swam nude prior to the popularity of swimsuits.

<sup>73</sup> Monroe 1995

<sup>74</sup> Kelly Miller basketball player Phil Carter quoted in Minnich 2018

<sup>75</sup> Monroe 1986, 92

<sup>76</sup> Dudley 1986, 106-107

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to learn Latin.<sup>77</sup> According to one account from a contemporary white student, Principal Saunders may have been the only Harrison County principal at the time with a doctorate and students in other schools were aware of the higher standards at Kelly Miller.<sup>78</sup> Its Dean of Teachers was the “handsome and stern-faced” Duncan Huey Kyle (Figure 26), who was known nationally for his scholarship on African-American history and taught at Kelly Miller for 46 years.<sup>79</sup> His Black History course covered the contributions of people of African descent, both within the United States and broadly for modern civilization.<sup>80</sup> “Black History” was integrated into Latin, civics, and general history courses.<sup>81</sup> He also believed that “the best interests of the race can be promoted by Christian education, and proper development along business lines, especially the buying of homes.”<sup>82</sup>

Under Saunders and Kyle, Kelly Miller became the first school in Clarksburg to be accredited, by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools in 1929.<sup>83</sup> At one time, 90%<sup>84</sup> of its graduates went on to WVSC, Howard University, and other colleges, often returning to become teachers and continuing the cycle of excellence. The first scholarships for Kelly Miller students even came from WVSC.<sup>85</sup> One example is aforementioned Victorine Augusta Louistall (later Monroe) (Figure 27), who graduated from Kelly Miller in 1929, attended West Virginia State College (later University), then began her teaching career at Kelly Miller (Figures 20 and 21) while simultaneously becoming the first African-American woman to earn a graduate degree at West Virginia University<sup>86</sup>, the state’s leading institution of higher learning. She is best known for becoming the first African-American faculty member at WVU, in 1966.<sup>87</sup> She also wrote local histories about Kelly Miller<sup>88</sup>.

Kelly Miller was locally praised for its school choir (Figure 22), which performed in other county high schools and even in fairs outside Harrison County under the leadership of Mercedes Davis Forte, who was hired as the band and choir director sometime after 1936.<sup>89</sup> Victorine Louistall Monroe credits this outreach as an early step in peaceful integration.<sup>90</sup> According to a contemporary white student at Washington Irving (colloquially “WI”) School, “small cracks in that wall [of segregation] were being formed”

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<sup>77</sup> McGee 2020

<sup>78</sup> Meredith 2003

<sup>79</sup> Dudley 1986, 106. His profile in Caldwell (1923) includes further biographical information.

<sup>80</sup> Dudley 1986, 106

<sup>81</sup> Monroe 1986, 93

<sup>82</sup> Caldwell 1923. Per Monroe (1986) and Ms. Wimer in Footnote 4, this pattern can be seen in Clarksburg.

<sup>83</sup> Monroe 1995 and Potapchuk 2001, 11

<sup>84</sup> Potapchuk 2001, 11

<sup>85</sup> Swiger 2016

<sup>86</sup> Snoderly 2019; See Monroe (1986) for a list of other female graduates who went to WVSC then returned to Kelly Miller as teachers.

<sup>87</sup> Original documents from her life are archived at the West Virginia and Regional History Center Repository (Collection #: A&M.3916) at WVU. See Hostuttler (2017) and Snoderly (2019) for other biographic details.

<sup>88</sup> See Monroe (1986) and Monroe (1995). Note that Dudley (1986) was also written by a former teacher.

<sup>89</sup> Monroe 1986, 93

<sup>90</sup> Monroe 1986, 93

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as their choirs participated in a music exchange that included a presentation on Kelly Miller's namesake.<sup>91</sup> He continues that, prior to the visit, "Kelly Miller and its surrounding streets were off-limits to most of us and totally unknown."

Along similar lines of Kelly Miller's musical traditions, several students formed The Prodigals (originally the Jumping Jacks and the Chords) in 1956, played at integrated dances as far away as Pennsylvania, and were regional hits when they landed a recording deal in Chicago for "Marsha," "Judy," "Vangie," and "Won't You Believe."<sup>92</sup> WI Newsletter editor Roleta Meredith says "In the eyes of the teens in Clarksburg at that time...they were our ROCK AND ROLL BAND --- they were famous.....the closest we got to FAME at that time of our lives [sic]."<sup>93</sup> The doowop band survived to the end of the 1960s with Gerard Folio, a French-American guitarist who joined in 1957 and was its first white member.<sup>94</sup>

Beyond its academic and musical achievements, Kelly Miller School shone in state-level sporting events, wearing black and orange as the Kelly Miller Yellow Jackets.<sup>95</sup> They had a gymnasium, but their football team practiced on the Washington Irving campus along with other schools.<sup>96</sup> A contemporary white student recalled, "I remember watching them practice and thinking how much harder they worked out than we did. ... Athletics, especially football, probably had as much to do with real integration at the college level as anything else..."<sup>97</sup> A Kelly Miller athlete noted secret scrimmages against white teams like the catholic St. Mary's school, which also used the WI field, and rare trips to play integrated schools in Pennsylvania.<sup>98</sup> A contemporary Caucasian student mentions they "played a white team in an all star game at the Carmichael Auditorium. I attended many of their football and basketball games from 1947 until the school closed."<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> Meredith 2003

<sup>92</sup> Meredith 2008 and personal communication with Dorian James; This source includes fond memories from WI alumni and a detailed description of the band from the book *Doowop: The Chicago Scene* by Robert Pruter. See Footnote 103 for a direct connection between the band members and school events.

<sup>93</sup> Meredith 2008

<sup>94</sup> Meredith 2008; Given an account that lead singer Chuck Collins rarely attended WI after integration, and Pruter's statement that Bill "Theme Song" McCoy (Figure 30) left the group shortly after recording, it is easy to speculate that these African-American teenager boys faced racial challenges that kept them from a musical career – such as their near-arrest in Chicago in what was likely a racial profile incident.

<sup>95</sup> Meredith 2003 and Minnich 2008; See Barnett, Brooks, and Althouse (2020:54-56) for additional information about the athletic program.

<sup>96</sup> Meredith 2003; According to recollections of a WI alumnus, Kelly Miller played on Hite Field at WI, where they had a field/dressing house outside the stadium fence, and practiced at the Central Junior High field above its parking lot.

<sup>97</sup> Meredith 2003

<sup>98</sup> Barnett, Brooks, and Althouse 2020, 55

<sup>99</sup> Meredith 2003. This individual, Freddie Layman, was sufficiently connected to Kelly Miller that he claims in this submission "I visited Mr. Saunders many times after his retirement and he was kept busy baby sitting a grandchild. He informed me that he was not in favor of integration and that was why he retired from the school system."

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While Kelly Miller's football team did win state championships under the leadership of Coach Mark H. Cardwell (Figure 28), he is best known for his basketball coaching career.<sup>100</sup> Because of segregation, African-American high schools competed in the West Virginia Athletic Union (WVAU) state tournament, which was founded in 1925.<sup>101</sup> For the first several years, Cardwell used his experience as a basketball player at West Virginia State College (WVSC) to develop the team, but from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s, he led them to five state championships including three consecutive years of 1942 to 1944 (Figures 23 and 33).<sup>102</sup> The WVAU tournaments were accompanied by beauty pageants (Figure 24) and community dances, the latter of which seem to have been integrated to some degree.<sup>103</sup> After 20 years of state championships at Kelly Miller, Cardwell was offered a coaching position at his alma mater in 1945 and the high school's state-level success ended.<sup>104</sup>

Another famous member of Kelly Miller's athletic team was Robert "Bob" Wilson, who was part of the three-year basketball winning streak (Figure 23) and enrolled at WVSC after post-graduation military service. Wilson was co-captain there under Coach Cardwell, as the WVSC Yellow Jackets won national basketball championships.<sup>105</sup> Wilson would later become one of the first six African-Americans to join the National Basketball Association (NBA), is Harrison County's only NBA player, and was a member of the Harlem Globetrotters.<sup>106</sup> Phil Carter, who was part of the Kelly Miller Yellow Jackets during their final state championship, would go on to be the second African-American on Marshall University's basketball team and later teach there.<sup>107</sup> In 2018, Kelly Miller's accomplishments were honored in a "Throwback Night" basketball game in which current high school teams wore jerseys from schools that no longer exist.<sup>108</sup> The event included sharing African-American perspectives on racial issues in Clarksburg, and recognizing still-living Kelly Miller players, which Mr. Carter feels is an insightful way to build bridges "People remember symbols and logos and colors..."

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<sup>100</sup> WVSU 2023

<sup>101</sup> Barnett 2021

<sup>102</sup> Barnett 2021; Figure 33 depicts excerpts from the 1944 basketball tournament program, recovered by the author from an online book seller and donated to Kelly Miller Community Center. It includes annotations by Victorine Louistall, including the tournament scores. Advertisements shed light on race relations in Clarksburg, including from funeral homes (which were often segregated at this time) and both Republican and Democrat political candidates.

<sup>103</sup> Barnett 2021, Kelly Miller High School 1944, and Monroe 1986, 92; For example, the 1944 basketball tournament program mentions a victory dance at Sedwick's Hall (Figure 33c), which was located on Pike Street (Monroe 1986, 92). It was played by the orchestra of Sammy Ellis (who would become a locally known Italian-Catholic businessman) featuring Eddie Gales, who is very likely the same Prodigals drummer.

<sup>104</sup> Barnett 2021 and WVSU 2023. At WVSC, Cardwell would continue coaching African-American teams to victory – teams that included some of the first African-Americans in the NBA. He was inducted into the WVSC Hall of Fame and is the namesake for their practice court. This information comes from his profile at WVSU (2023), which includes further accomplishments. Also see Meredith (2019).

<sup>105</sup> See Atkinson (2017) and Minnich (2018) for these and other biographical details. He would be honored as one of the Black College Sports Review's top 50 basketball players in the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

<sup>106</sup> Atkinson 2017 and Minnich 2018

<sup>107</sup> Minnich 2018

<sup>108</sup> Minnich 2018. Wilson and other former players attended the event.



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Athletics have universal appeal.”<sup>109</sup> In fact, Mr. Wilson is Kelly Miller’s most broadly known alumnus and was recently honored with a highway sign (Figure 29).<sup>110</sup>

Since the curriculum included Prof. Kyle’s African-American history course, it is fitting that the school celebrated “Negro History Week” annually from 1926 to 1956.<sup>111</sup> In fact, West Virginia was one of the first states to implement this precursor to Black History Month and played a part in its creation.<sup>112</sup> Prof. Kyle directed the students in educational plays and speeches that they presented in local churches, as well as travelling to churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio.<sup>113</sup> The school also held an annual Emancipation Day celebration in September, which included a parade with floats made by community groups, a picnic, speeches from prominent African-Americans, and eventually the Kelly Miller band.<sup>114</sup>

### *Integration and the Modern African-American Community in Clarksburg*

Following *Brown v Board of Education* in 1954, the process of de-segregation began for Kelly Miller School. According to a contemporary newspaper (Figure 34), first and seventh grades transferred to Central Junior High in 1955 because of their small sizes, with claimed success in integration both academically and socially.<sup>115</sup> In 1956, the high school was integrated into Washington Irving, although some students enrolled in other schools, leaving roughly 100 grade school students behind for the next school year.<sup>116</sup> In Fall 1957, integration was finally completed and the school fully closed.<sup>117</sup> The staff was split up across the county, with no more than two African-American teachers in any given school as described in Victorine Louistall Monroe’s 1986 article. Only one went to Central Junior High and only one<sup>118</sup> to WI, creating a discomfoting environment for former Kelly Miller students who were used to a predominantly African-American community. Victorine Louistall would become the librarian at Roosevelt-Wilson High School, Mercedes Davis Forte went to Lost Creek High School, and Dr. Saunders became acting principal of Linden School.<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> Minnich 2018

<sup>110</sup> Baublitz 2021

<sup>111</sup> Monroe 1986, 93. Monroe gives a starting date of 1920, but Negro History Week was not formally introduced until 1926 (Scott 2011).

<sup>112</sup> Woodson 1926, 238; During his time at WVSC, Carter G. Woodson was the progenitor of this movement, beginning with Negro History Week in 1926 to expand celebrations of the February birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, Negro History Month by the 1940s, and Black History Month by the late 1960s (Scott 2011).

<sup>113</sup> Monroe 1986, 93

<sup>114</sup> LeRoy 1995 and Monroe 1986, 93; Note that the former says the conventional September 22, while the latter gives the date as the 21st.

<sup>115</sup> Unidentified 1955 newspaper included in Cork 2009

<sup>116</sup> Unidentified 1955 newspaper included in Cork 2009.

<sup>117</sup> Monroe 1986, 93; For example, James “Jim” Griffin, who was in fourth grade at the time of integration, went to Towers (Genco 2018).

<sup>118</sup> Monroe’s first article (1986, 93) lists Mrs. Ione McGee being moved to WI, while her later one (1995) lists both Mrs. McGee and William James, the part-time band/orchestra instructor who proceeded Mercedes Davis Forte.

<sup>119</sup> Monroe 1986, 93

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Although choir and sports had made some headway on integration and Clarksburg neighborhoods were generally less segregated than expected, the transition was not without tension. In the experience of the Kelly Miller choir teacher:

“When they (blacks) [sic] went to school the first day, about ten people were blocking the door. ‘I wasn’t afraid,’ reflected Williams ([née] Mercedes Forte). ‘We told them we didn’t want to be there any more than they didn’t want us.’ The confrontation ended, and the African-Americans entered with no further inconvenience.”<sup>120</sup>

Although the West Virginia NAACP supported swift integration, they also acknowledged discrimination in hiring the displaced African-American teachers as well as concerns about the decreased quality of education.<sup>121</sup> Athlete Phil Carter describes “a very different and difficult experience” with many students failing to graduate and a strong sense of suddenly being underrepresented.<sup>122</sup> In contrast, Mike McGee, whose mother was the only African-American teacher at WI with 30 former Kelly Miller students, describes an active, but “cliquish” group of students with an experience that “wasn’t horrible – just different.”<sup>123</sup> A 1958 report by the West Virginia NAACP found that African-American teachers were now satisfied with their placements.<sup>124</sup> On his new role at Linden School, Dr. Saunders describes that “I was respected in every sense of the word by the faculty, pupils, parents and patrons of the school” (although he may not have fully supported integration personally).<sup>125</sup> Mercedes Williams best sums up the situation as: “In the beginning, we were not well-accepted although some people were lovely to us...But some other teachers were openly prejudiced. It was a learning experience. All in all, it was not as bad as other places.”<sup>126</sup>

According to recollections of James “Jim” Griffin (Figure 31) - former Kelly Miller student, NAACP president, and WVBHF chairman – the school building was not itself integrated because some white students would not travel into the African-American neighborhood.<sup>127</sup> The Harrison County school superintendent had promised that the school building would keep the “Kelly Miller” name in recognition of contributions to the community.<sup>128</sup> It became the Kelly Miller Adult Education Center in 1961, providing a trade school, industry training, and other educational opportunities.<sup>129</sup> In January of

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<sup>120</sup> Durci c. 2003, using a “Burnside” source that has not been identified. Note that Durci describes this incident as taking place at WI, but Forte was assigned to Lost Creek High School, per Monroe 1986, 93.

<sup>121</sup> Monroe 1986, 92 and Stack 2008. The latter includes extensive detail about NAACP actions during integration.

<sup>122</sup> Minnich 2018

<sup>123</sup> Bonnstetter 2017

<sup>124</sup> Stack 2008, 15-16

<sup>125</sup> Meredith 2003 (see Footnote 99) and Stack 2008

<sup>126</sup> Durci c. 2003; For other first-hand accounts of desegregation and the African-American experience in Clarksburg, see Bonnstetter (2017), Durci (c. 2003), Genco (2018), Minnich (2018), and numerous entries in the WI Newsletter edited by Roleta Smith Meredith.

<sup>127</sup> Shriver 2023; One of Clarksburg’s high-end neighborhoods, Quality Hill, is immediately adjacent to the Kelly Miller neighborhood (see the Setting above for this definition), so any “color line” would have been very severely defined.

<sup>128</sup> Monroe 1986, 93

<sup>129</sup> LeRoy 1995

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1982, it became the central offices for the Harrison County BOE, who added office partitions (Photo 61), turned the auditorium into their board room (Photo 50), converted the gymnasium into general storage, filled in the swimming pool (Photo 44), etc. Waters Street would be renamed “E.B. Saunders Way” in 1997<sup>130</sup>, in recognition of Principal Saunder’s long tenure and contributions to the Kelly Miller neighborhood community. He is felt to have guided the relationship between the African-American community and white Clarksburg citizens.<sup>131</sup>

Large reunion events began in 1969, founded by Mrs. Ethel Lowry Hart as the Kelly Miller Alumni Association with over 400 former students, faculty, and their families.<sup>132</sup> Over 600 attended in 1984,<sup>133</sup> and a subsection began discussing how they could continue the school’s legacy of promoting education, as described by the aforementioned Mike McGee:

“Twenty-five years after integration, we all remembered what segregation felt like and what it meant to be integrated. It gave us the initiative to be successful and the desire to make other people successful. I remember in the parking lot the key question was how to pass down to young people how to succeed. That was our objective, and we just stuck with it.”<sup>134</sup>

The Kelly Miller Foundation was officially established in 1985 and offered scholarships to African-American students for college as well as other forms of continuing education.<sup>135</sup> In 1990, the alumni association decided to bring back the annual Emancipation Proclamation Celebrations that had historically been led by the school’s faculty.<sup>136</sup> The event was held on Water Street on September 22, 1990 and was designed to raise money for the alumni association’s upcoming reunion, but by 1995 it evolved into the West Virginia Black Heritage Festival, which is now held in downtown Clarksburg and still offers academic scholarships and annual readings of the Emancipation Proclamation.<sup>137</sup>

In 2017, things came full circle when the building and the legacy of Kelly Miller School were reunited. Harrison County BOE moved their headquarters and donated the former African-American school to “West Virginia Black Heritage Festival, Inc.” (Figure 31).<sup>138</sup> Today, the building is named “Kelly Miller Community Center” (Photo 10) and is operated by the neighborhood “Monticello Ongoing Revitalization Effort” (M.O.R.E.).

<sup>130</sup> *Codified Ordinances of Clarksburg Article 916.01*

<sup>131</sup> *Barnett, Brooks, and Althouse 2020:55*

<sup>132</sup> *Monroe 1986, 93; See Photo 4 for commemorative Ethel Hart plaque.*

<sup>133</sup> *Monroe 1986, 93*

<sup>134</sup> *Bonnstetter 2017*

<sup>135</sup> *Bonnstetter 2017; Their final meeting was 2016, with 141 scholarships awarded over the years (Swiger 2016).*

<sup>136</sup> *Monroe 1986, 93 and WVBHF 2017*

<sup>137</sup> *Genco 2018 and WVBHF 2017. Victorine Louistall Monroe and other alumni were founding members.*

<sup>138</sup> *Genco 2018*

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According to alumnus Jim Griffin, “The long-term plan for the building is to renovate the gymnasium and some of the former classrooms into a community center. It has already received a couple grants, but will need at least \$150,000 just to make the gym usable... We want to give you young people an alternative. Something to do and somewhere to go.”<sup>139</sup> M.O.R.E. offers or has plans for fitness programs, STEAM classes, a food pantry, public computers, a book club, a library, town hall meetings with elected officials, and programs about African-American history. The 2023 Mary Hunt Mural represents the unity of past, present, and future,<sup>140</sup> as M.O.R.E. continues to honor the building’s history of education and community service, while celebrating African-American heritage, experiences, and opportunities.

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<sup>139</sup> Genco 2018

<sup>140</sup> Artist Joel Dugan quoted in Edwards (2023). *The seed packets are meant to represent this future.*

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Kelly Miller Community Center, Clarksburg, West Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** WVSHPO HPI# HS-1022

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 0.46

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |              |                 |                   |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17N | Easting: 557282 | Northing: 4347699 |
| 2. Zone:     | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:     | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:     | Easting :       | Northing:         |

#### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is depicted as a red line on Figure 2a and encompasses three tax parcels (17-03-0024-0246-0000; 17-03-0024-0301-0000; 17-03-0024-0302-0000) totaling 0.46 acres in Harrison County, West Virginia. It is also bounded by Ben Street to the west, Lee Avenue to the north, and E.B. Saunders Way to the east.

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary follows the tax parcels (current and past) that encompass the city lot on which the building is located. The school footprint includes all three parcels, and the parcels include both the associated parking areas.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Charity Moore Norton, RPA / Volunteer

organization: WV Black Heritage Festival Inc.

street & number: PO Box 1614

city or town: Clarksburg

state: WV

zip code: 26302

e-mail: kellymillercc@gmail.com

telephone: 304-641-9963

date: July 26, 2024

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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## Figure Log

- Figure 1. Kelly Miller School (408 E.B. Saunders Way, Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia) on USGS Clarksburg 7.5' Quadrangle.
- Figure 2a. Kelly Miller School (408 E.B. Saunders Way, Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia) on 2022 Harrison County aerial imagery, note three church locations.
- Figure 2b. Close-up of Kelly Miller School on 2013 Google Earth aerial imagery. See Photo Locations.
- Figure 3a. Kelly Miller Building unlabeled designs, annotated by author – First Floor, note labeled as “BASEMENT” (Original Source: Harrison County BOE c. 1983b). Note that all pages have age-related damage from the KMCC originals. See Photo Locations.
- Figure 3b. Kelly Miller Building unlabeled designs, annotated by author – Second Floor, note labeled as “FIRST FLOOR” and missing gymnasium portion (Original Source: Ibid.). See Photo Locations.
- Figure 3c. Kelly Miller Building unlabeled designs, annotated by author – Third Floor, note labeled as “SECOND FLOOR” (Original Source: Ibid.). See Photo Locations.
- Figure 3d. Kelly Miller Building unlabeled designs, annotated by author – Fourth Floor, note labeled as “THIRD FLOOR” (Original Source: Ibid.). See Photo Locations.
- Figure 4. Sanborn Insurance Map (date unknown) depicting an early school location (COL[ORE]D SCHOOL) on Cemetery Street.
- Figure 5. Gray's New Map (1879) depicting future school location on Shuttleworth parcel, note one church location.
- Figure 6. Sanborn Insurance Map (1911) depicting current school location prior to expansion, note interior plan with measurements and two church locations.
- Figure 7. Sanborn Insurance Map (1924) depicting current school location and size, note measurements and three church locations.
- Figure 8a. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Building Renovation for Board of Education Headquarters Office” – First Floor, note labels for proposed changes (Source: Harrison County BOE c. 1983a). Note that all pages have age-related damage from the KMCC originals and were reproduced in a way that did not include the page (if it was preserved).
- Figure 8b. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Building Renovation for Board of Education Headquarters Office” – Second Floor, note labelled as “FIRST FLOOR PLAN” and labels for proposed changes (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 8c. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Building Renovation for Board of Education Headquarters Office” – Third Floor, note labels for proposed changes (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 8d. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Building Renovation for Board of Education Headquarters Office” – Fourth Floor, note labelled as “THIRD FLOOR PLAN” and labels for proposed changes (Source: Ibid.).

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- Figure 9a. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Fire Alarm System – Exit & Emergency Lights” – First Floor, note labelled as “GROUND FLOOR PLAN” (Source: Harrison County BOE 1983). Note that all pages have age-related damage from the KMCC originals, and that two pages aren’t included here because they depict the emergency system connections and the roof only.
- Figure 9b. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Fire Alarm System – Exit & Emergency Lights” – Second Floor, note labelled as “FIRST FLOOR PLAN” (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 9c. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Fire Alarm System – Exit & Emergency Lights” – Third Floor, note labelled as “SECOND FLOOR PLAN” (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 9d. Kelly Miller Building designs for “Fire Alarm System – Exit & Emergency Lights” – Fourth Floor, note labelled as “THIRD FLOOR PLAN” (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 10a. Kelly Miller Building designs – First Floor, note labelled as “GROUND FLOOR PLAN” and labels for proposed restoration (Source: Thrasher 2017b).
- Figure 10b. Kelly Miller Building designs – Second Floor, note labelled as “FIRST FLOOR PLAN” and labels for proposed restoration and renovation for lease space (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 10c. Kelly Miller Building designs – Third Floor, note labelled as “SECOND FLOOR PLAN” and labels for proposed renovation for lease space (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 10d. Kelly Miller Building designs – Fourth Floor, note labelled as “THIRD FLOOR PLAN” and labels for proposed lease space (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 11. Kelly Miller School, date and original source unknown, note original configuration with bell tower and lack of fourth floor (see Cork 2009).
- Figure 12. Kelly Miller School c. 1911, note label with original school name and principal Lee R. Jordan (Source: WVCI 1911).
- Figure 13. Kelly Miller School, date and original source unknown but identical to Figure 14, note gymnasium addition and fourth floor with parapets (see Cork 2009).
- Figure 14. Kelly Miller School c. 1956 (see Hostuttler 2017; Source: WVRHC A&M 3916).
- Figure 15. Kelly Miller School, date and original source unknown, note fire slide on right (see Cork 2009, which claims ca. 1932).
- Figure 16. Kelly Miller School c. 1955, note intact parapets on roof and fire slide on right (Source: West Virginia History OnView Identifier 044181; Gift from Richard Duez).
- Figure 17. Kelly Miller School in present, note missing upper portion of parapets (Source: KMCC 2022).
- Figure 18. Mt. Zion Baptist Church on “West Main Street – One half block below South Chestnut Street”, date and source unknown (Courtesy of Sherri James).
- Figure 19. Mt. Zion Baptist Church “Present Structure Before Renovations – 1913 to 1951”, date and source unknown (Ibid.; compare with Photo 14).
- Figure 20. Victorine Louistall and her 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at Kelly Miller School 1950-1951 (Source: West Virginia History OnView Identifier 052642; Acquired from McBlain Books).



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- Figure 21. Victorine Louistall and her 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at Kelly Miller School 1950-1951 (Source: West Virginia History OnView Identifier 052643; Acquired from McBlain Books).
- Figure 22. Kelly Miller High School Choir in the gymnasium 1942-1946 (Source: Historic Photographs: Black West Virginia; compare with Photo 36 but note different window configuration).
- Figure 23. Mark Cardwell (top left) and the Kelly Miller Basketball Team 1944, note that Bob Wilson is present but not identified in the photograph (Source: Souvenir Program for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual State Basketball Tournament of the West Virginia High School Athletic Union).
- Figure 24. Miss Pageant at West Virginia Athletic Union state basketball tournament with “Miss Kelly Miller” (second from left) and her attendant on left (Source: West Virginia History OnView Identifier 039585; Gift from Connie Rice courtesy of Charlene Marshall [third from left]).
- Figure 25. Principal James Wesley Robinson (Source: Caldwell 1923).
- Figure 26. Dean of Teachers Duncan H. Kyle (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 27. Victorine Louistall 1948 (Source: West Virginia History OnView Identifier 052639; Acquired from McBlain Books).
- Figure 28. Mark Cardwell c. 1944 (Source: Souvenir Program for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual State Basketball Tournament of the West Virginia High School Athletic Union).
- Figure 29. Installation of sign at Clarksburg’s downtown highway access honoring Bob Wilson (Source: Baublitz 2021).
- Figure 30. Final officers of the Kelly Miller Foundation – (left to right) James Williams, Bill McCoy (Kelly Miller football player and Prodigals member), Mike McGee (last Kelly Miller Foundation president) (Source: The State Journal 2017).
- Figure 31. WV Black Heritage Festival Foundation Chairman James Griffin accepts the Kelly Miller School deed from BOE representative 2018 (Source: Genco 2018).
- Figure 32. Newspaper clipping of Charles D. Ogden contract to erect other school building (Source: The Clarksburg Telegram 1902).
- Figure 33a. Excerpt from 1944 basketball tournament program – Cover page, note handwritten “Victorine A. Louistall” (Source: Souvenir Program for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual State Basketball Tournament of the West Virginia High School Athletic Union). Note age-related damage from the originals, which were stabilized with archival tape prior to donation to KMCC.
- Figure 33b. Excerpt from 1944 basketball tournament program – Tournament schedule and snack bar announcement, note the snack bar would likely have been considered to be on the third floor (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 33c. Excerpt from 1944 basketball tournament program – Tournament bracket and band announcement including future Prodigals member Eddie Gales, note handwritten scores presumably by Victorine Louistall and reference to Sedwick’s Hall (Source: Ibid.).
- Figure 34. Newspaper clipping of local school integration 1955, original source unknown (see Cork 2009).

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Kelly Miller School

City or Vicinity: City of Clarksburg

County: Harrison

State: West Virginia

Photographer: Charity Moore Norton

Date Photographed: March 2 & 27, 2021 *(The exterior was re-photographed on June 28, 2024, with no changes noted except for the 2023 Mary Hunt Mural and the removal of some shrubs. In some cases, the 2021 photos were retained if they better depicted conditions due to lighting or winter vegetation. All 2024 photos have been labelled as such.)*

*Photo Locations are depicted on Figures 2b and 3. Close-up photos and the attic are not depicted.*

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1. Front of school, note brick color differences, replaced/covered windows, and decorative brickwork on surviving lower portion of parapets (looking west; taken in 2024).
- Photo 2. Northern front entrance reading "Kelly Miller School," note historical plaques on right and replaced/covered door and window (looking west; taken in 2024).
- Photo 3. Close-up of decorative elements at northern front entrance (looking west; taken in 2024).
- Photo 4. Close-up of historical plaques next to northern front door, note dedication to former principal Dr. Emmett B. Saunders and Kelly Miller Association founder Ethel Hart, installed by the Kelly Miller Association (looking west).
- Photo 5. Southern front door reading "Auditorium & Gymnasium," note replaced/covered door and window, as well as interior "panels" (looking west-by-northwest; taken in 2024).
- Photo 6. Close-up of decorative elements at southern front entrance (looking west; taken in 2024).

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- Photo 7. Northern front tower, note decorative stonework and brickwork (looking west-by-southwest; taken in 2024).
- Photo 8. Close-up of surviving parapet brickwork at northern front tower, note raised elements (looking west; taken in 2024).
- Photo 9. Different brick and window lintels at front of school, between the original third floor and the fourth-floor addition (looking west).
- Photo 10. Close-up of modern community center sign at front, referencing historical "yellow jackets" sports team (looking south).
- Photo 11. Modern sign for building tenant next to northern front door, note covered window and shrub that has since been removed (looking southwest).
- Photo 12. Outgoing view from front (center), note empty lot that has since been re-seeded and edge of Elk Creek bank (looking east).
- Photo 13. Outgoing view from front (right), note Allen Chapel AME Church (center), historic houses, and wheelchair ramp (right) at front of school (looking southeast; taken in 2024).
- Photo 14. Outgoing view from front (left), note Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church (compare with Figure 19), historic house, and parking lot (looking northwest; taken in 2024).
- Photo 15. North side of school prior to mural installation, note brick color differences, replaced/covered/added windows, subsurface entrances on right due to slope, and consistent decorative brickwork on parapets (looking south; could not be re-photographed in 2024 due to fence around this lot).
- Photo 16. Northeast corner of school with mural installed, note depiction of the historical and modern uses of the building with close-ups in Photos 28 and 29 (looking southwest; taken in 2024).
- Photo 17. Different brick and window lintels at the north side of school, between the original third floor and the fourth floor addition, as well as with the added third floor windows (looking south).
- Photo 18. Outgoing view from north side, note historic Melbourne Hall apartment building in midground on Washington Avenue (looking north; could not be re-photographed in 2024 due to fence on neighboring lot).
- Photo 19. Rear of school (wide angle), note brick color differences, replaced/covered/re-sized(?) doors and windows, elevated main entrance on left due to slope, absent first floor bays due to slope, side gymnasium balcony entrance (center of photo) to third floor, and consistent decorative brickwork on parapets (looking east; taken in 2024).
- Photo 20. Different brick and window lintels at rear (north) of school between all three upper stories (looking east; taken in 2024).
- Photo 21. Different brick and window patterns at rear (south) of school between all three upper stories, note brick patterns denoting filled windows and modified gymnasium balcony central entrance (looking east; taken in 2024).
- Photo 22. Outgoing view from rear (center), note former location of Trinity Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (looking west).
- Photo 23. Outgoing view from rear (right) toward downtown Clarksburg, note modern and historic houses (looking northwest; taken in 2024).

Kelly Miller School  
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Harrison County, WV  
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- Photo 24. Outgoing view from rear (left), note modern and historic houses (looking southwest; taken in 2024).
- Photo 25. Partial view from front along south side of school, note historic house abutting school (looking west; taken in 2024).
- Photo 26. Partial view from rear along south side of school, note irregular pattern of replaced/covered/added(?) windows (one original near foreground; see Photo 52), consistent decorative brickwork on parapets, and the side entrance (rear of school) to third floor (looking east; taken in 2024).
- Photo 27. Outgoing view from south side rear, note modern and historic houses; see Photo 13 for approximate view from south side front (looking south; taken in 2024).
- Photo 28. Close-up of “2023 Mary Hunt Mural” upper half depicting Emmett B. Saunders at top, Mt. Zion Baptist (center left), Kelly Miller School, athletes, and marching band, note separate panels (looking south; taken in 2024).
- Photo 29. Close-up of “2023 Mary Hunt Mural” lower half depicting marching band, teen with Yellow Jackets mascot on shirt, child with community center food bank name on crate, dog “Izzy,” and seed packets (looking south; taken in 2024).
- Photo 30. Roof with new tar paper, sloping surface, and surrounding parapets, note view toward Monticello Avenue (looking southeast).
- Photo 31. Roof, note view of downtown Clarksburg (looking northeast).
- Photo 32. Roof, note rooftop entrance enclosure with brick chimney (looking north-by-northwest).
- Photo 33. Roof, note sloping surface and view of downtown Clarksburg (NRHP district; looking northwest).
- Photo 34. First Floor (ground on designs) - gymnasium under renovation, note stepped concrete seating, hanging “balcony” seating (below second floor; see Figure 10b for full extent), and enclosed side stairway to third floor (enclosed on left), and exposed ceiling (looking west).
- Photo 35. First Floor - gymnasium under renovation, note doorway to original part of school (see Figure 3a for location) and edge of “balcony” (upper right of photo; looking northwest).
- Photo 36. First Floor - gymnasium under renovation (compare with Figure 22), note covered windows (bricked over in Photo 26; looking southwest).
- Photo 37. Second Floor (first on designs) – gymnasium under renovation (looking southwest).
- Photo 38. Second Floor – gymnasium under renovation, note “balcony” seating below doors to second floor (see Figure 10b for location; looking southeast).
- Photo 39. Close-up of gymnasium “balcony,” note ground-level entrance to rear of school and covered windows (visible in Photo 21; looking west).
- Photo 40. Close-up of gymnasium “balcony,” note partially-covered windows (left transoms visible in Photo 26; looking southeast).
- Photo 41. First Floor - former BOE Title IV office, note replaced windows (visible as only remaining first floor windows in Photo 1) and modern interior (looking east).
- Photo 42. First Floor - men’s bathroom, note modern interior (looking north-by-northwest).
- Photo 43. First Floor - women’s bathroom, note modern interior (looking north).

Kelly Miller School  
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- Photo 44. First Floor – adult fitness center in former pool area, note orange and black school colors (looking northwest).
- Photo 45. Second Floor – former classroom under renovation, note replaced/partially-covered window, removed drop ceiling, and removed BOE office partition (right; looking southwest).
- Photo 46. Second Floor – former classroom (future cafeteria) under renovation, note replaced/partially covered windows (visible in Photo 1) and removed BOE office partitions on walls and floor (looking east-by-southeast).
- Photo 47. Second Floor – Close-up representative view of original wooden floors in hallway (location and direction unknown).
- Photo 48. Third Floor (second on designs) – main front staircase in gymnasium addition, note details of original railings (looking northwest).
- Photo 49. Third Floor – rear of auditorium, note modern interior with drop ceiling across room (looking east-by-northeast?).
- Photo 50. Third Floor – front of auditorium, note removed BOE dais (looking west).
- Photo 51. Fourth Floor (third on designs) – original arched auditorium roof from former auditorium balcony, note details of original rear wall and the drop ceiling below (looking west).
- Photo 52. Third Floor – secondary staircase enclosed along auditorium, note original window (visible in Photo 26; looking west).
- Photo 53. Fourth Floor – STEAM classroom, note replaced windows (visible as uncovered fourth floor windows in Photos 1 and 26 at corner) and modern interior with drop ceiling (looking east-by-southeast).
- Photo 54. Fourth Floor – computer lab, note replaced windows (visible as uncovered fourth floor windows in Photo 1 including the southern tower; looking southeast).
- Photo 55. Fourth Floor – original closet in computer lab, note new and original door hardware (looking west).
- Photo 56. Fourth Floor – original door to computer lab, note “303” room number (replacing “407”) and new and original hardware (looking southeast).
- Photo 57. Fourth Floor – Close-up of decorative glass in computer lab door.
- Photo 58. Fourth Floor – storage room for BOE donations, note “304” door number and modern interior with drop ceiling (looking southeast).
- Photo 59. Fourth Floor – hallway view from outside Room 304, note elevator landing on left (looking north).
- Photo 60. Fourth Floor – book club room (location unknown but likely Room 305 or 306), note replaced/partially-covered window (visible in Photo 1; looking east-by-southeast).
- Photo 61. Fourth Floor – former classroom, note BOE cubicles with “307 I” number and replaced/partially covered windows (visible in Photos 1 and 15 at corner; looking east).
- Photo 62. Fourth Floor – Clarksburg Hung Gar Martial Arts School, note replaced/partially covered windows (visible in Photos 15 and 19 at corner) and modern interior (looking north).

Kelly Miller School  
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- Photo 63. Fourth Floor – youth fitness room with meditation room (door to rear), note covered window to right (visible in Photo 21) modern interior (looking south-by-southwest).
- Photo 64. Attic – original “Sturtevant” ventilation system, note ceramic tile wall and exposed rafters (direction unknown).
- Photo 65. Close-up of plaque on ventilation system.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



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Name of Property

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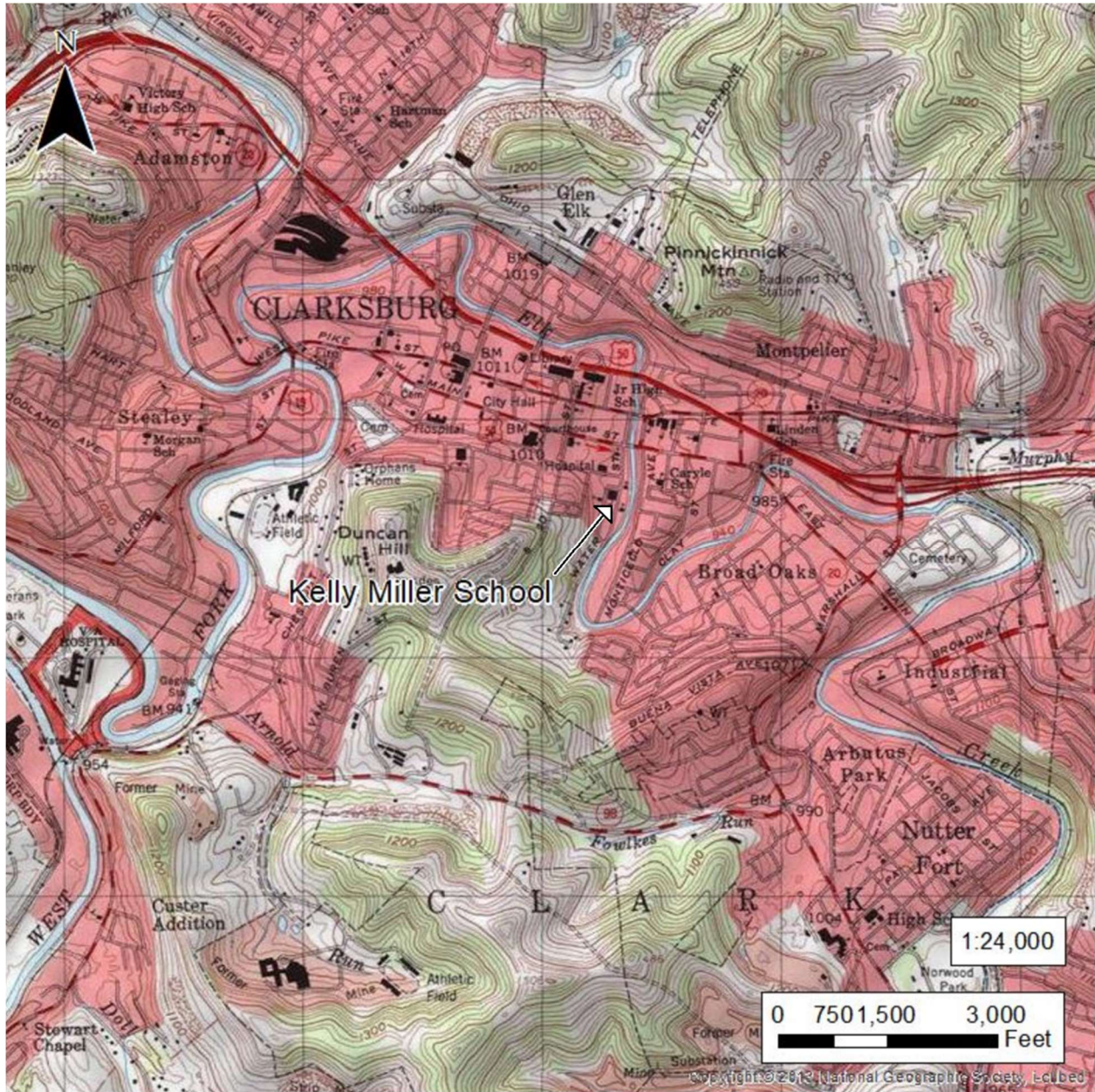


Figure 1



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Figure 2a



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

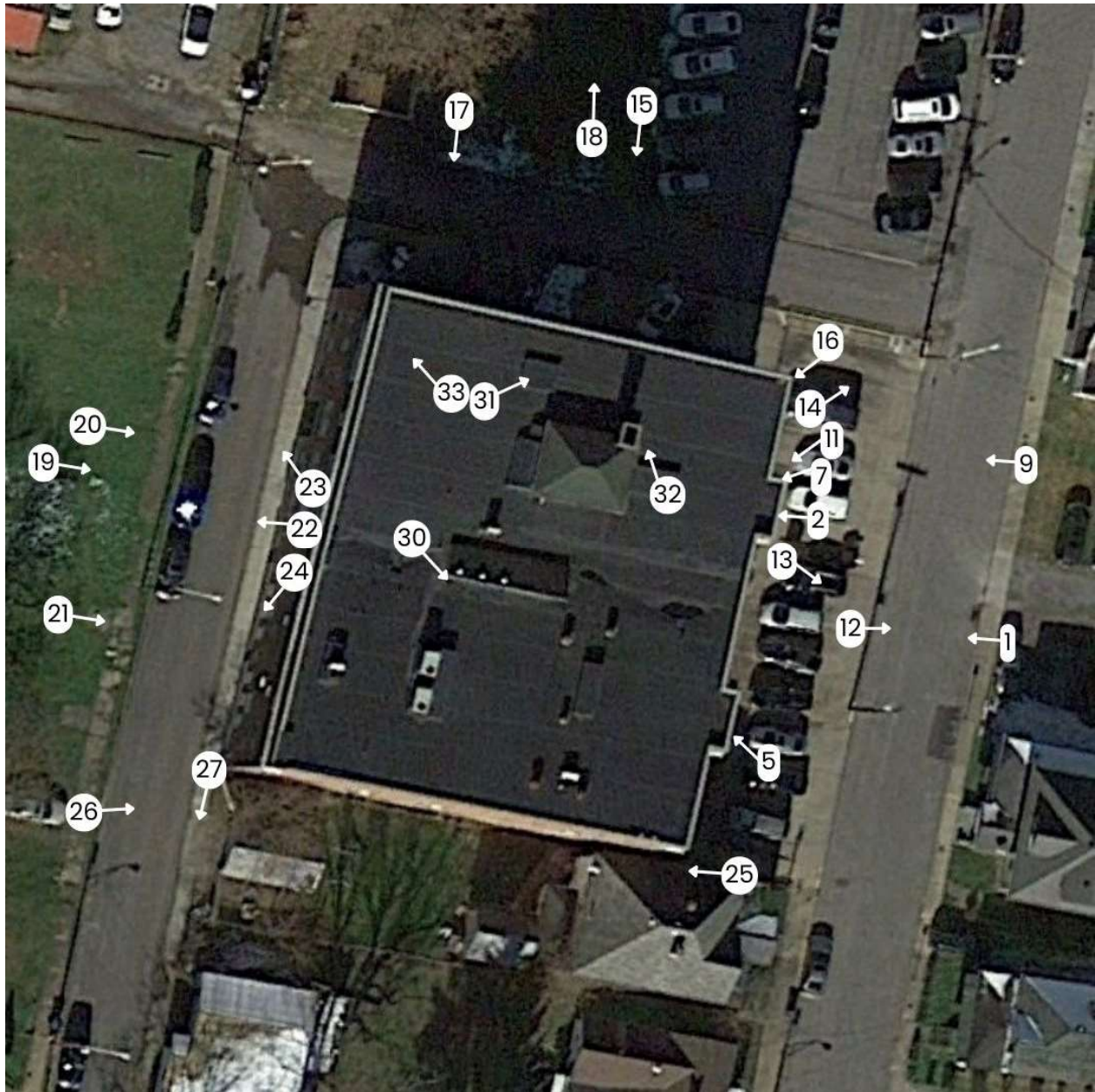


Figure 2b

Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

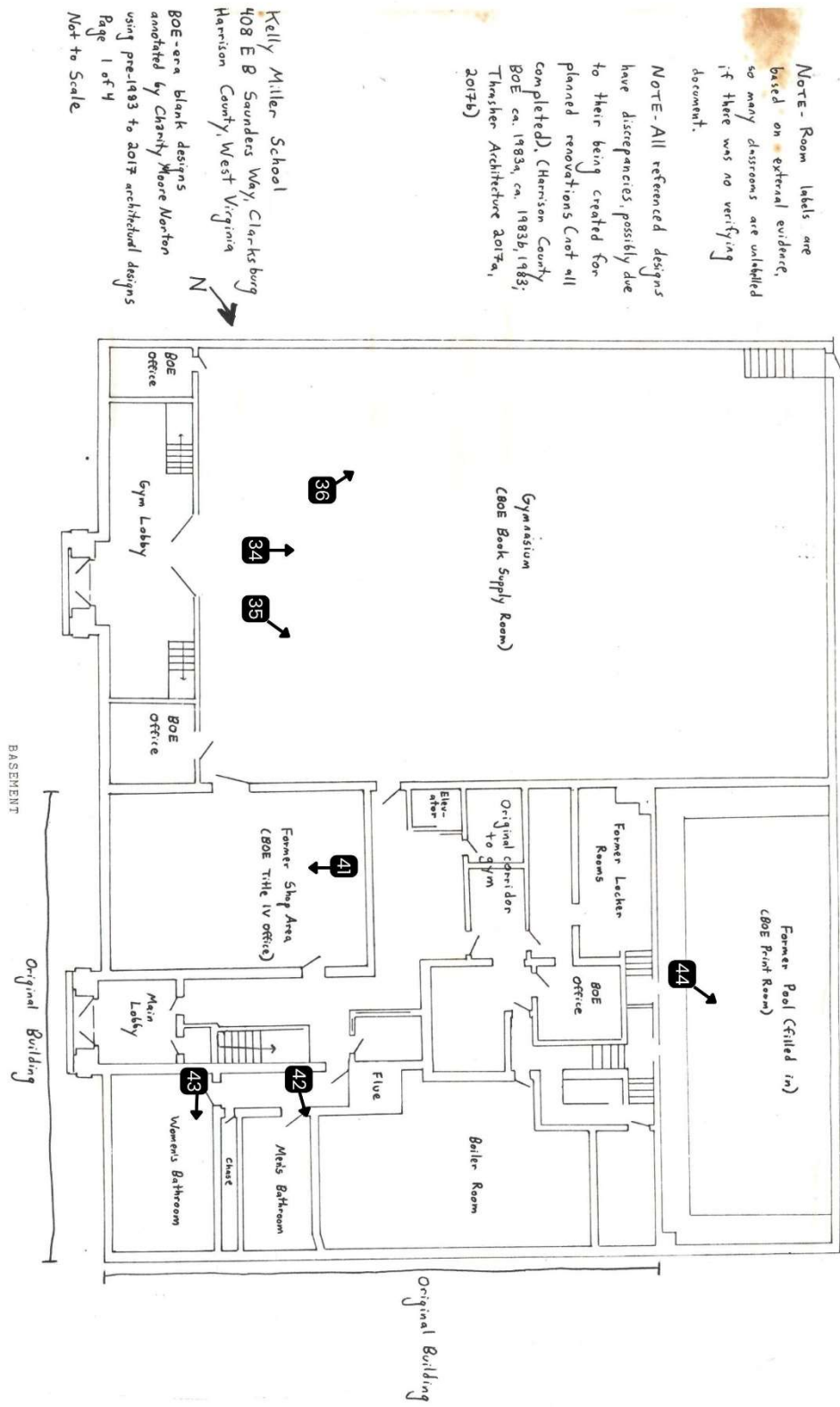


Figure 3a

Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

Kelly Miller School  
 408 EB Saunders Way, Clarksburg  
 Harrison County, West Virginia  
 BOE-era blank designs  
 annotated by Charly Moore Norton  
 using pre-1983 to 2017 architectural designs  
 Page 2 of 4  
 Not to Scale

Gym Below  
 -Balconies with  
 stair-foyer &  
 restrooms

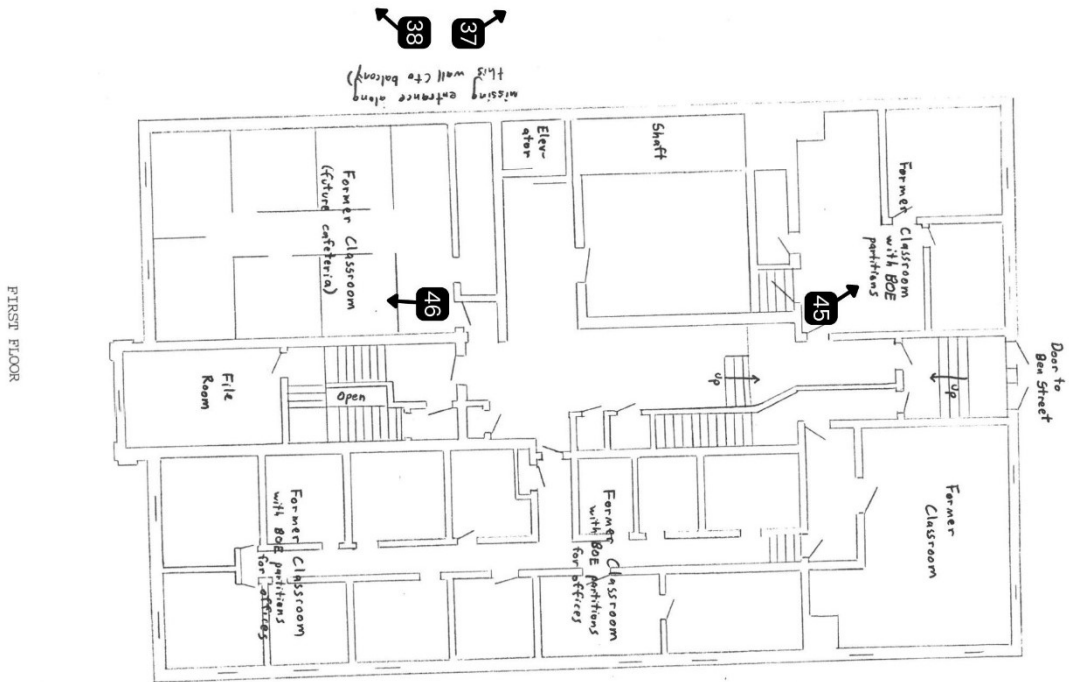


Figure 3b

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

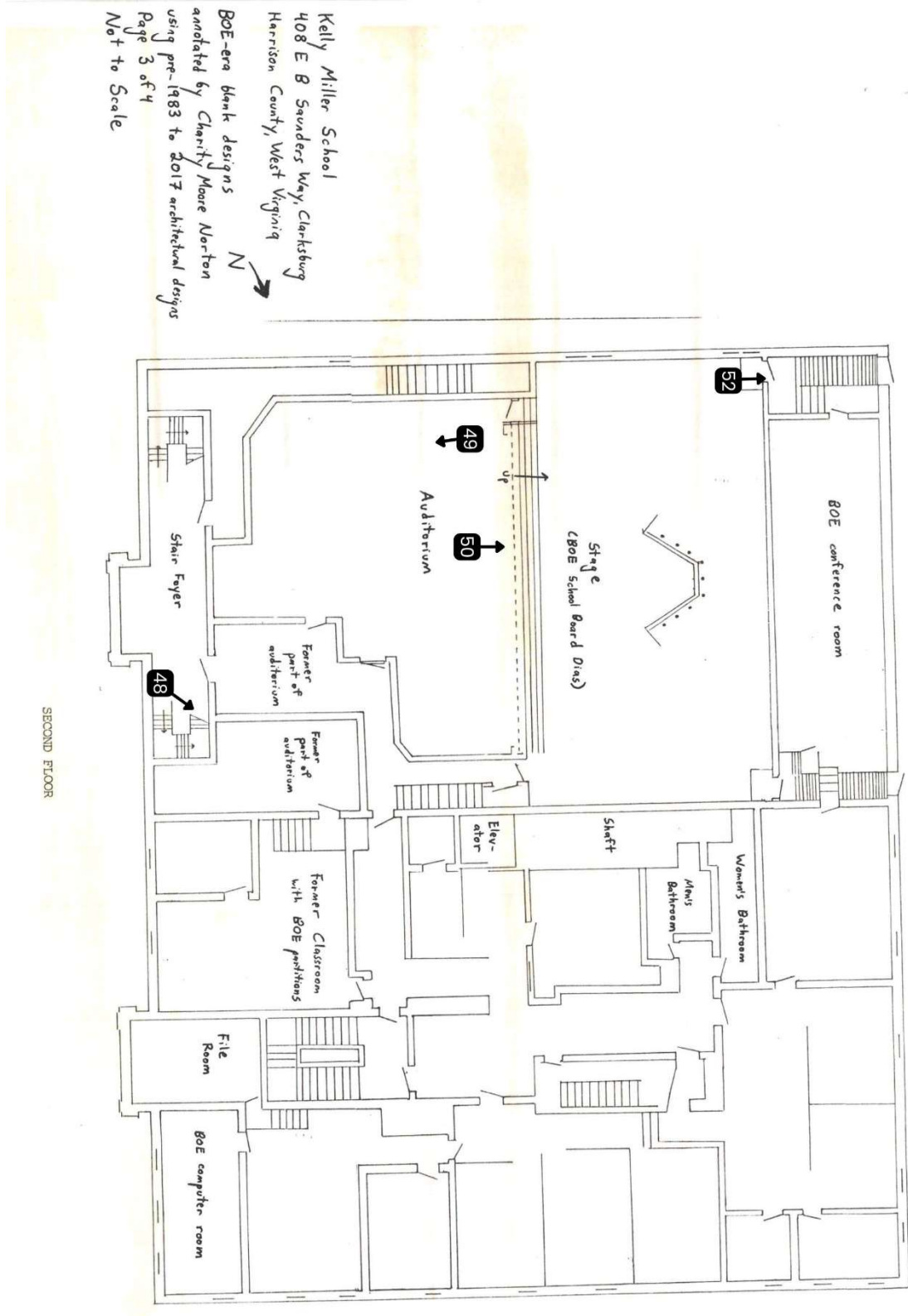


Figure 3c



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

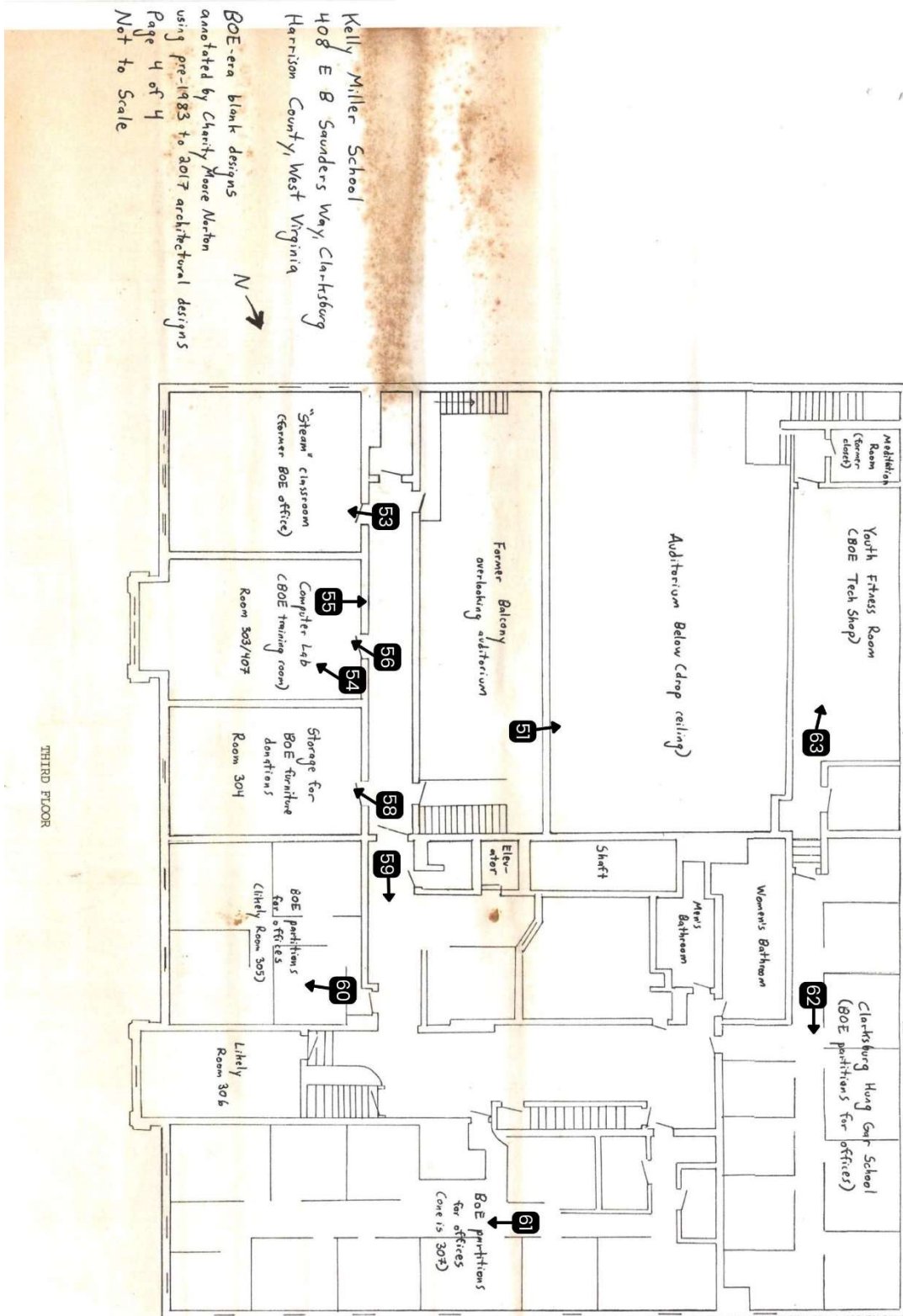


Figure 3d

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

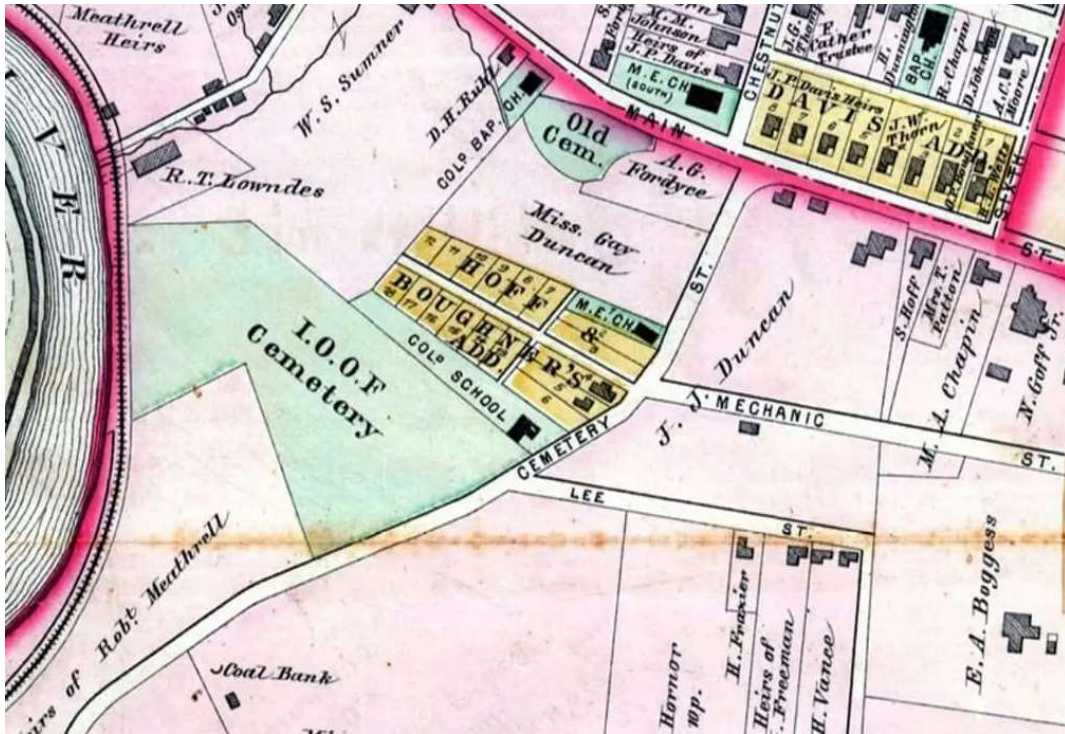


Figure 4



Figure 5



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

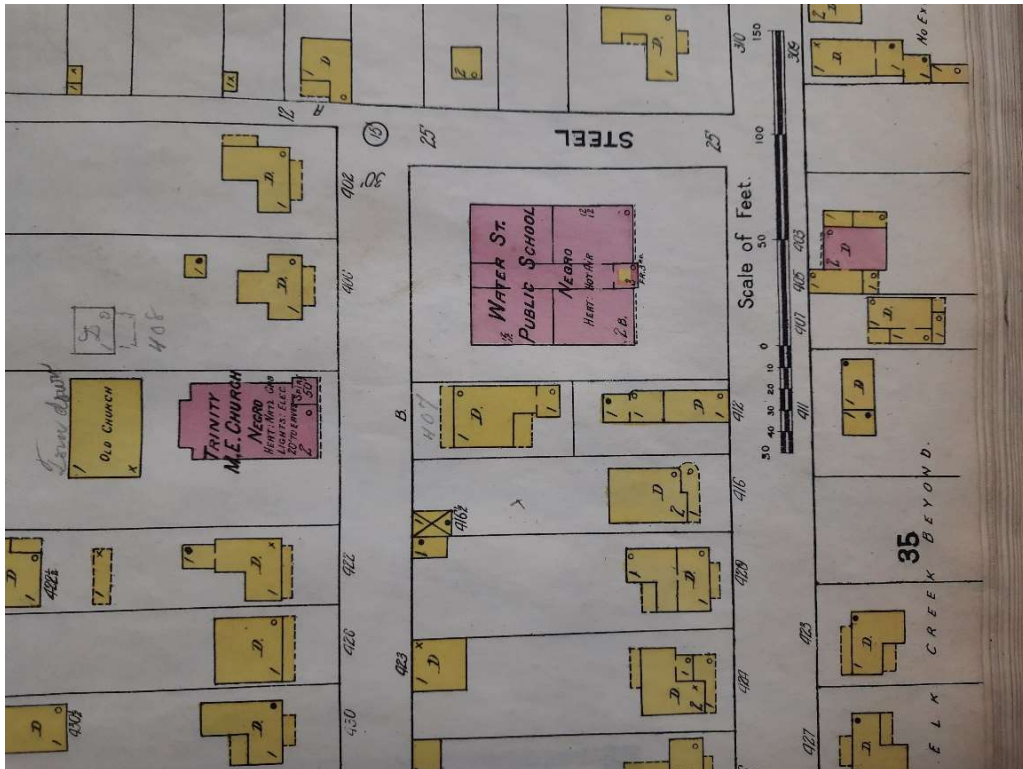


Figure 6

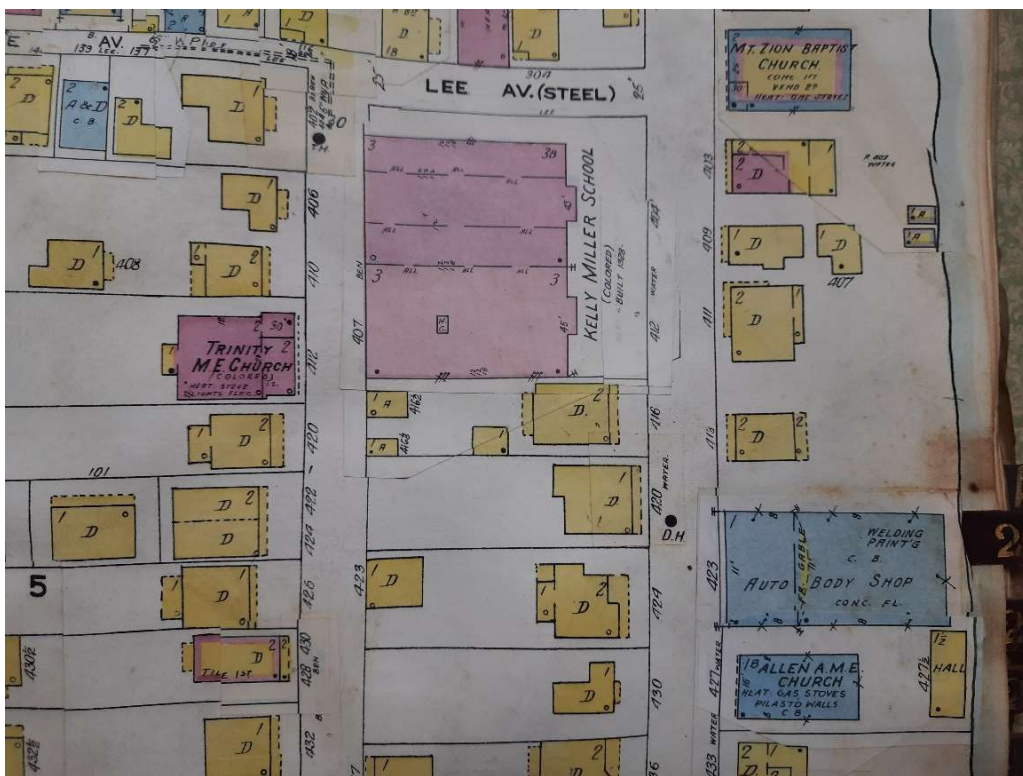


Figure 7





Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

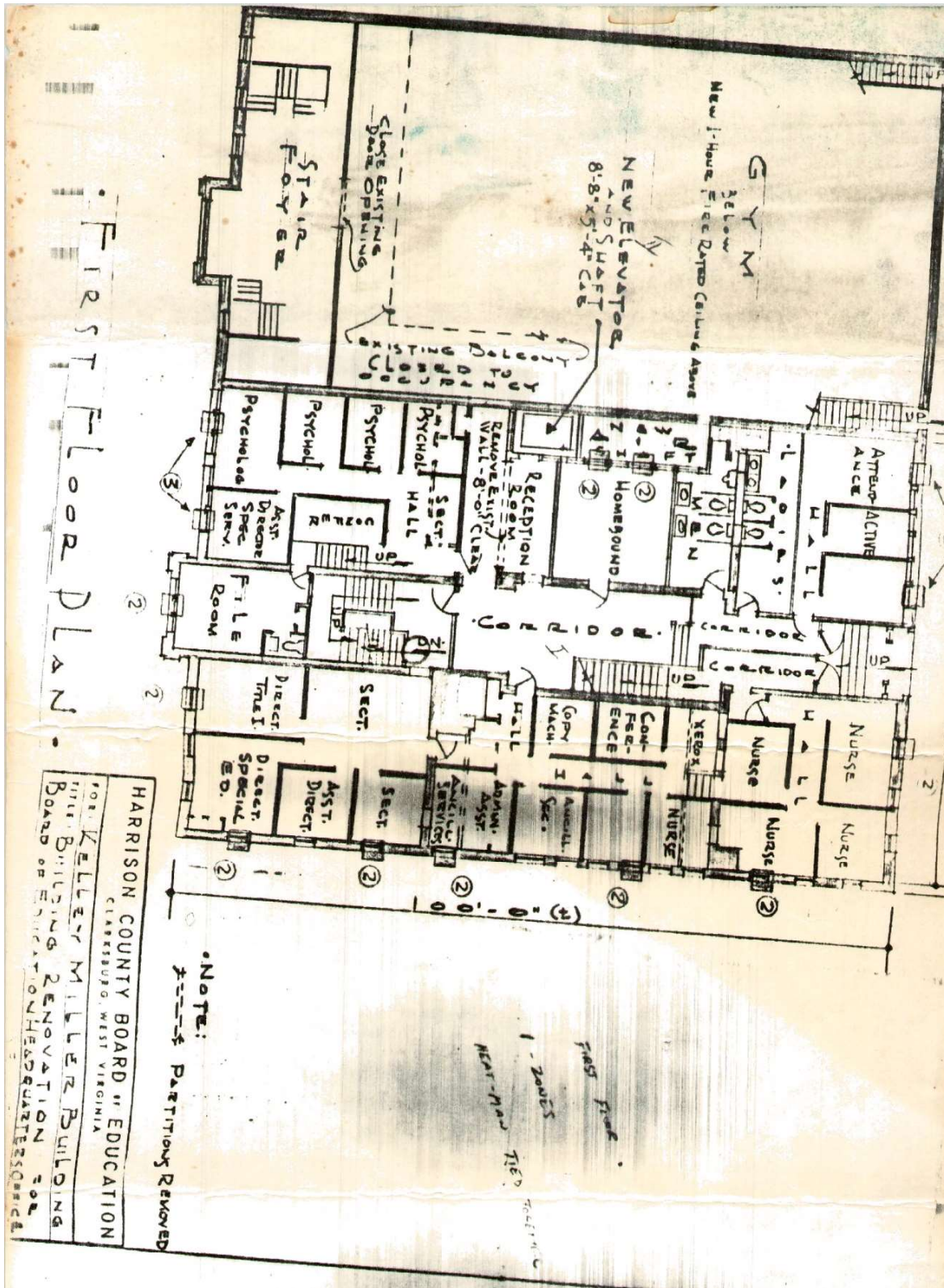


Figure 8b



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

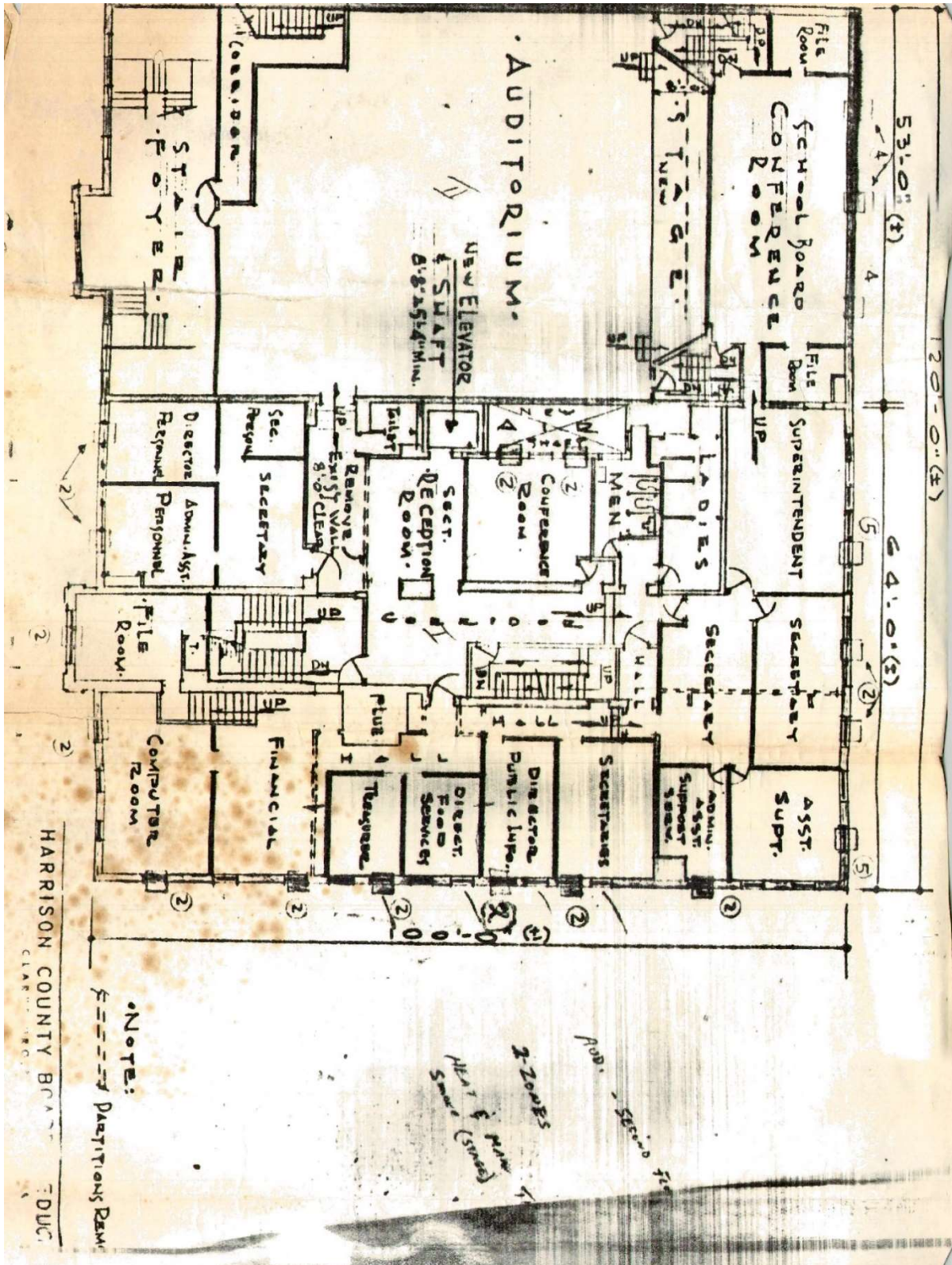


Figure 8c





Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

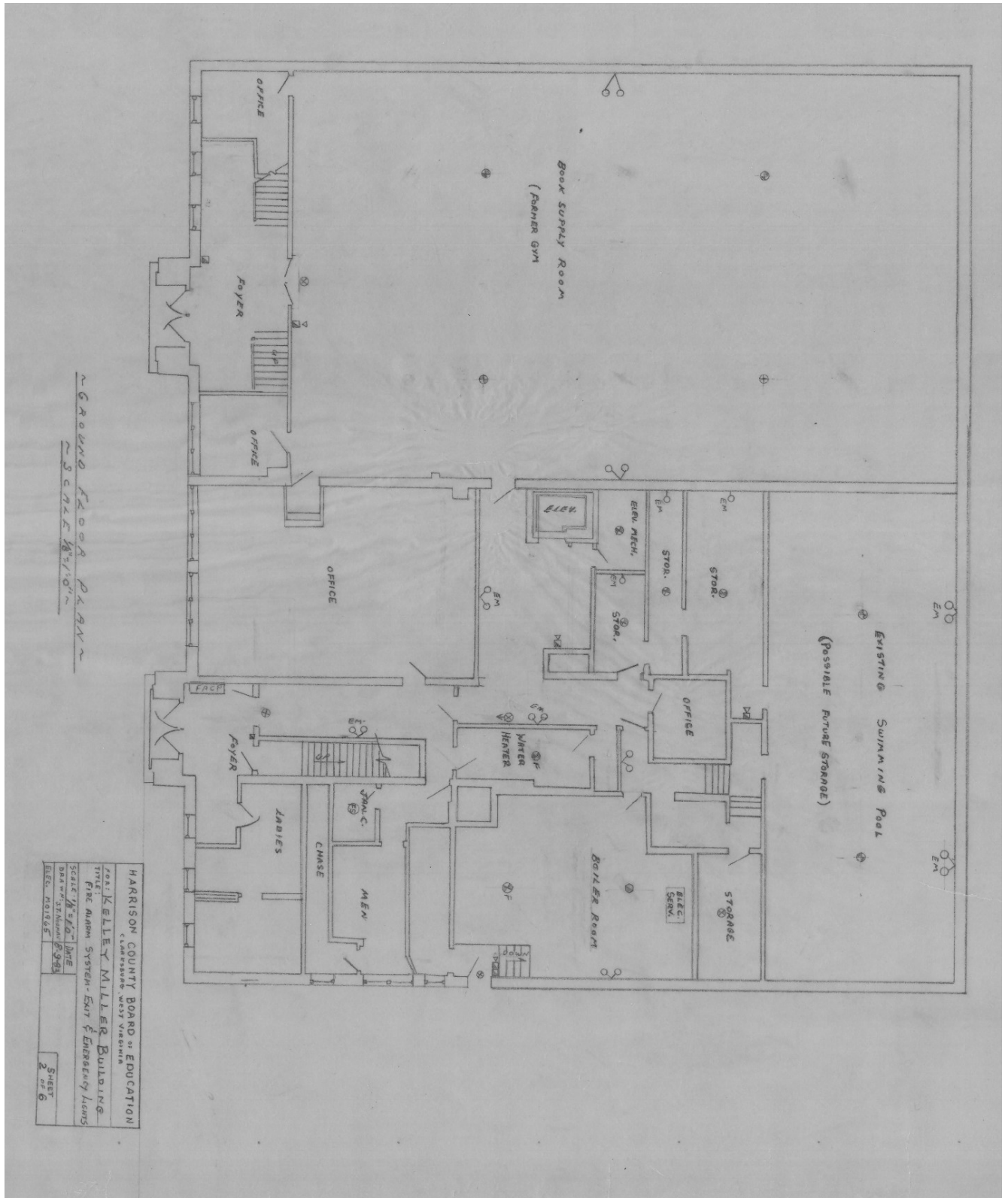


Figure 9a

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

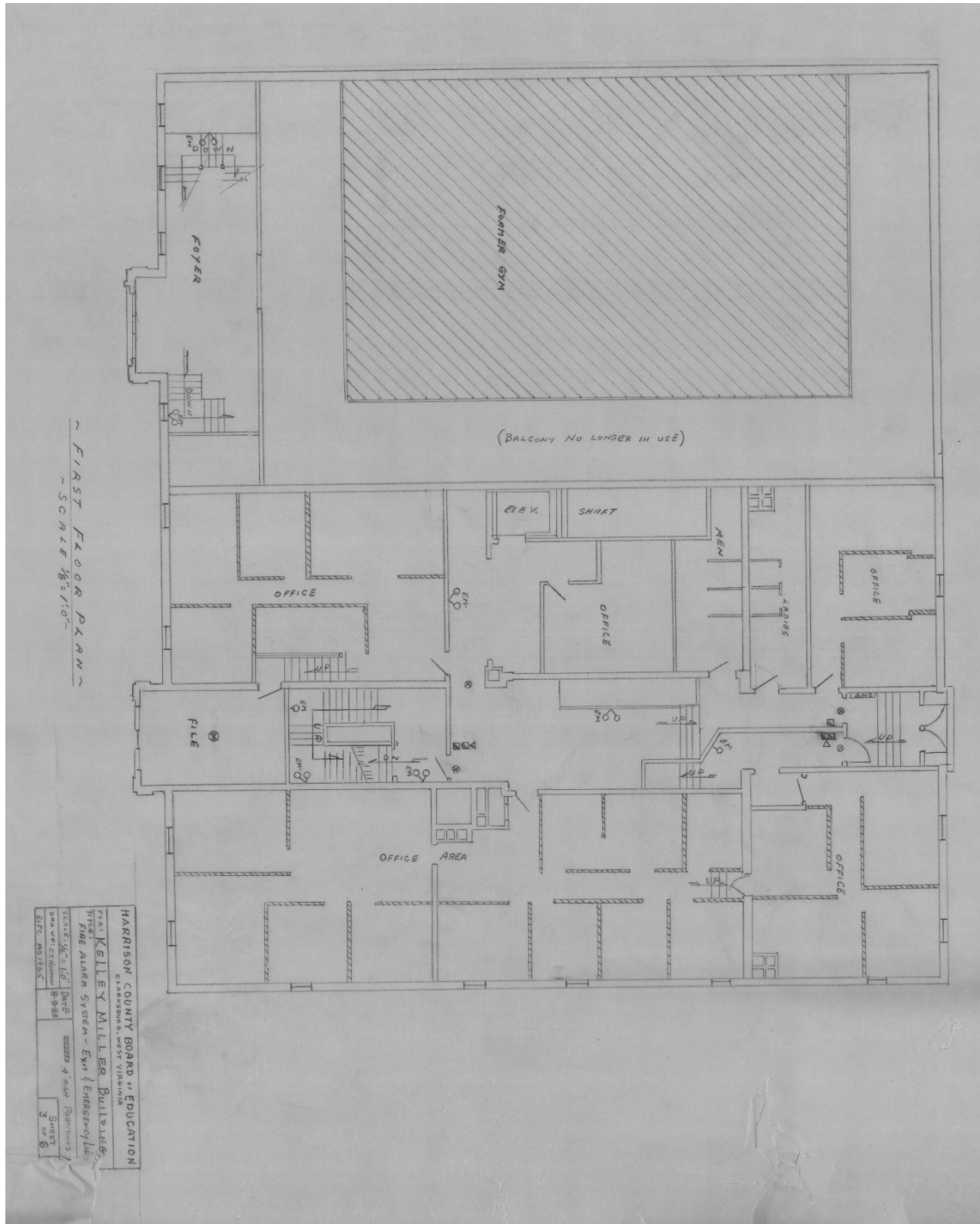


Figure 9b



Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

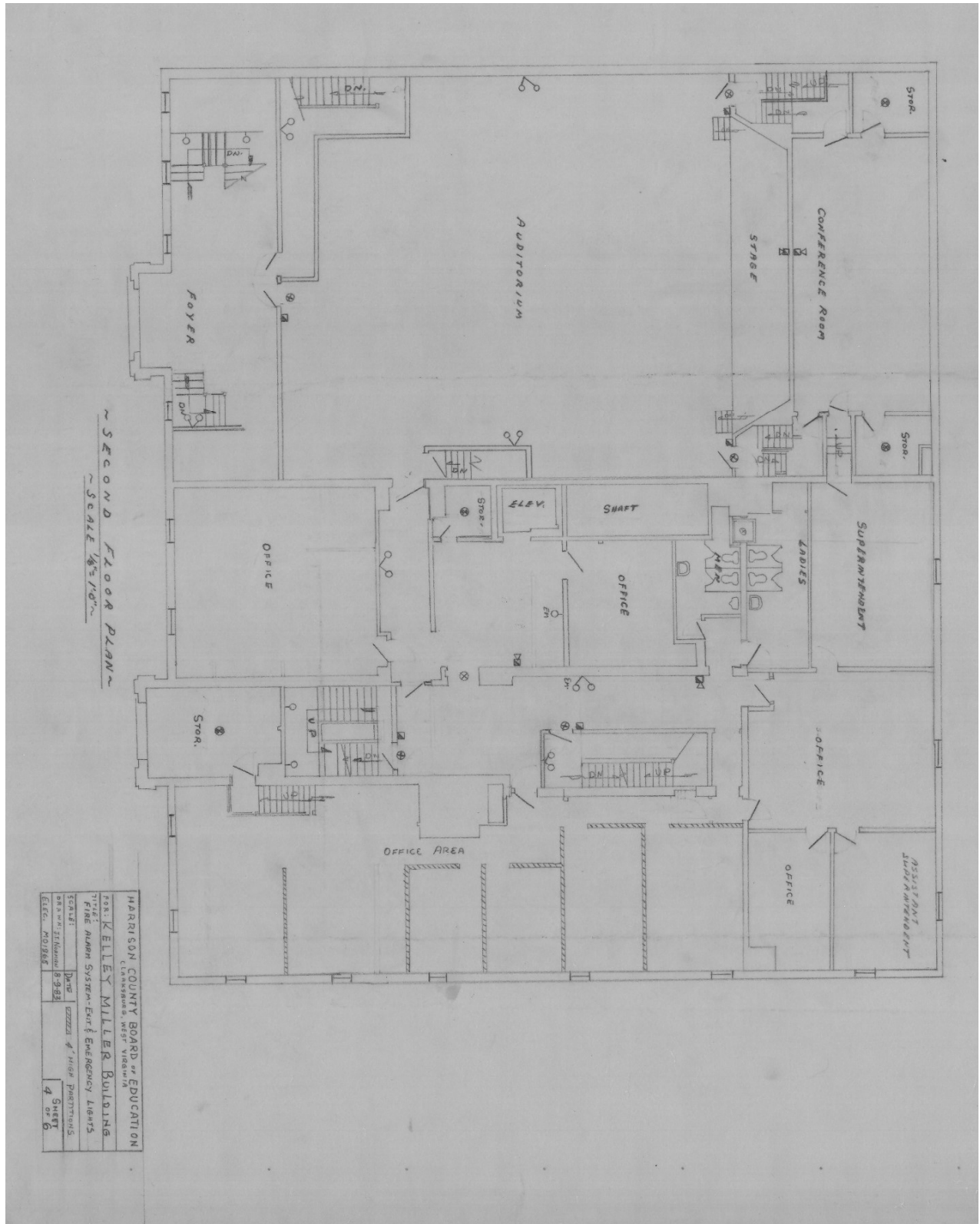


Figure 9c

Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

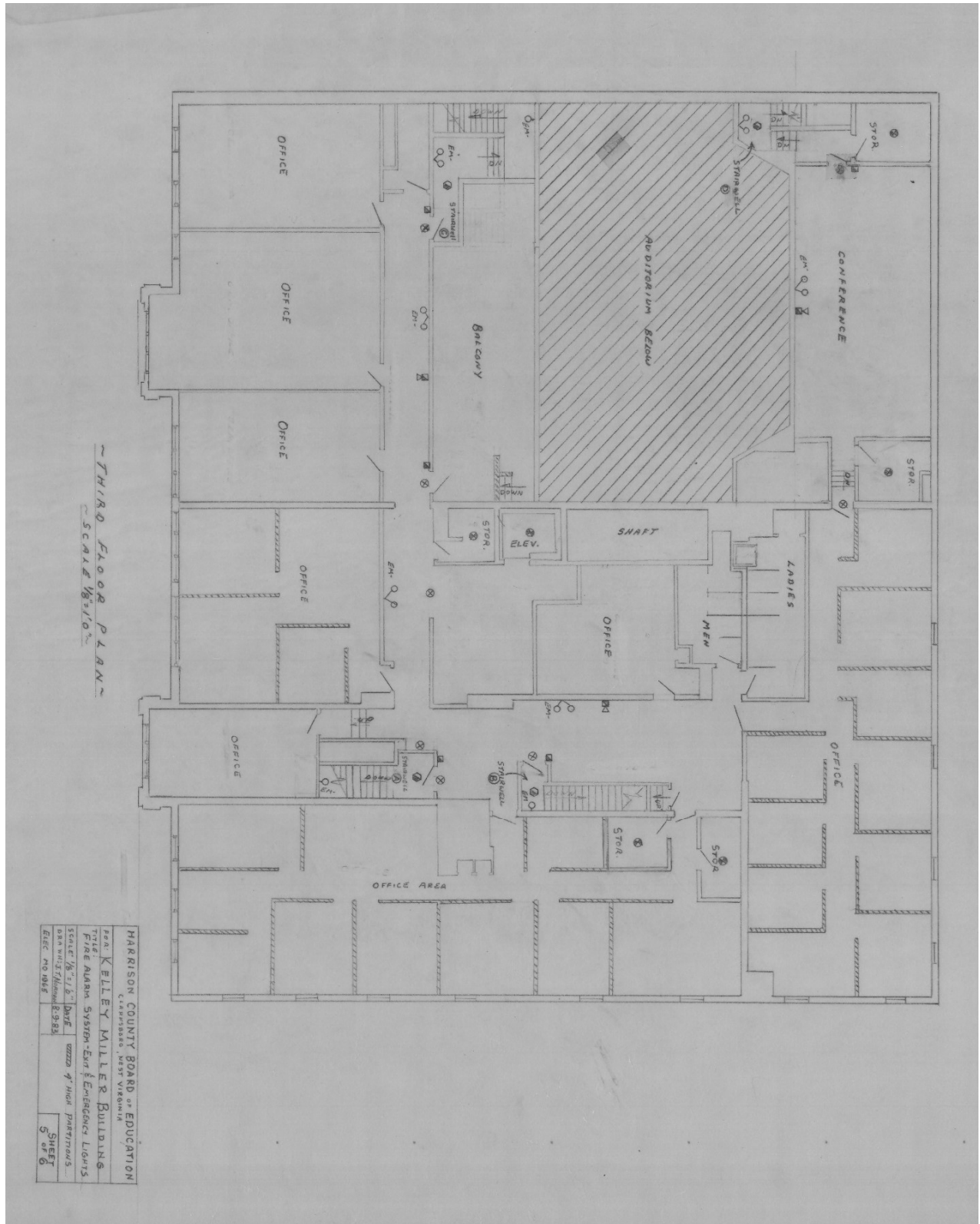


Figure 9d

Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

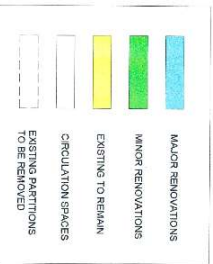


Figure 10a



Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State



Figure 10b







Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Figure 11

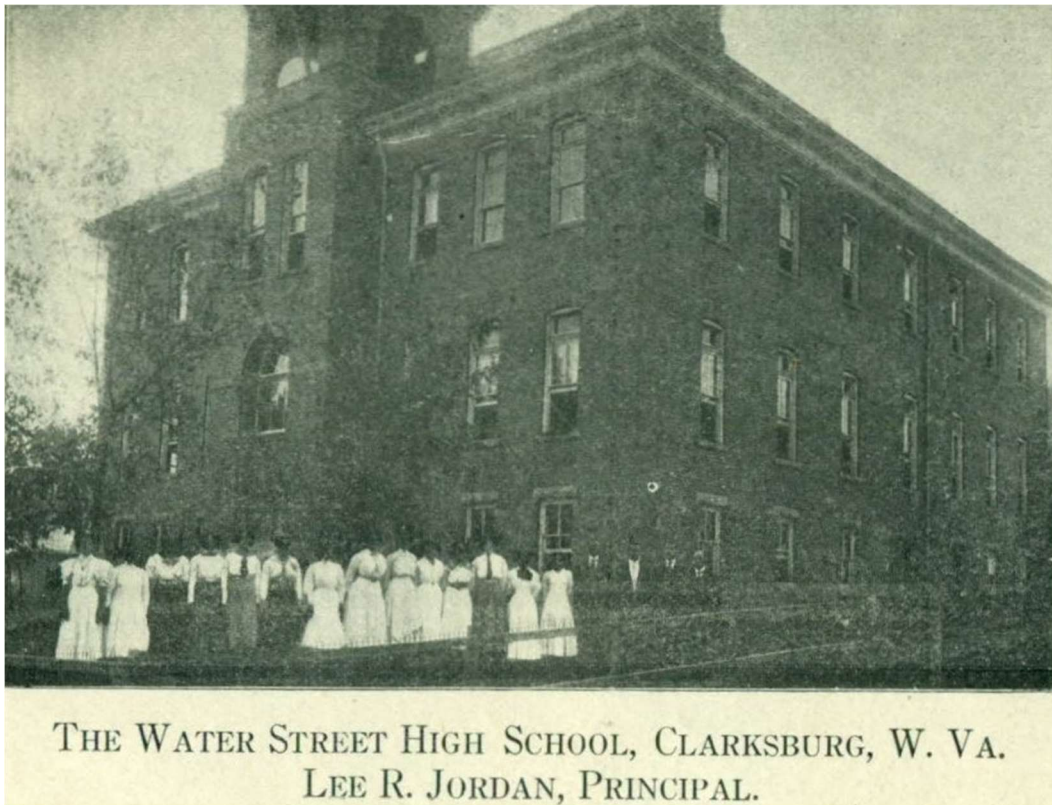


Figure 12



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

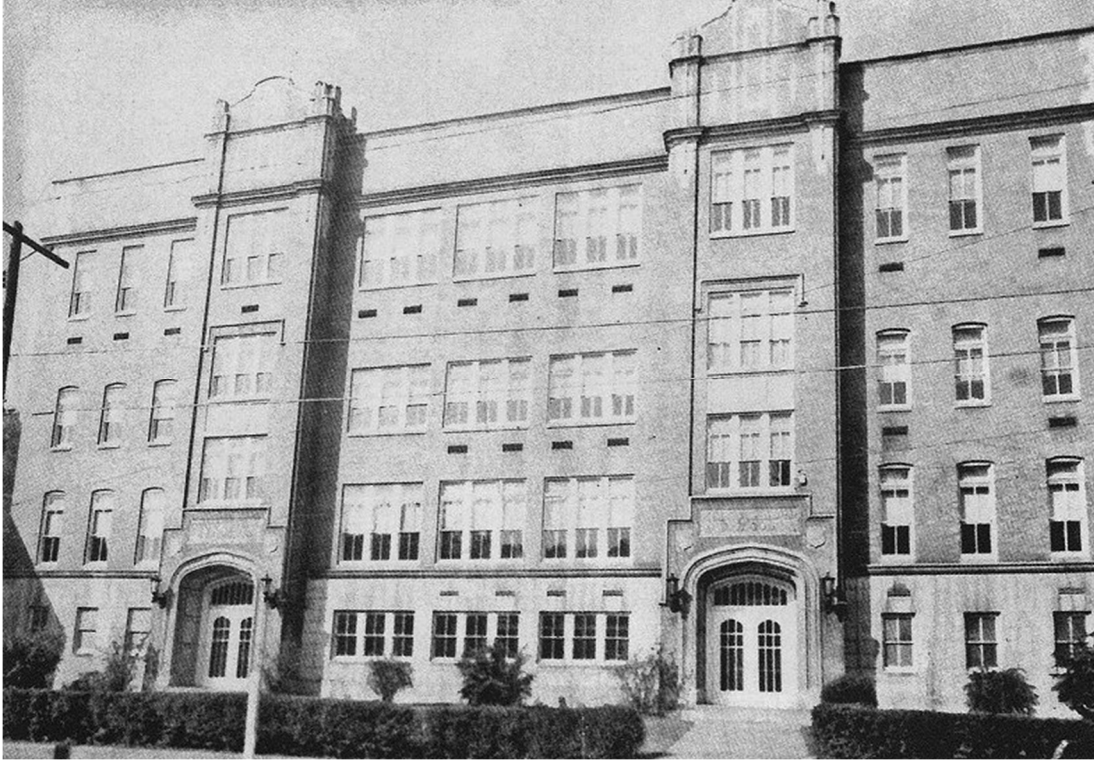


Figure 13



Figure 14

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

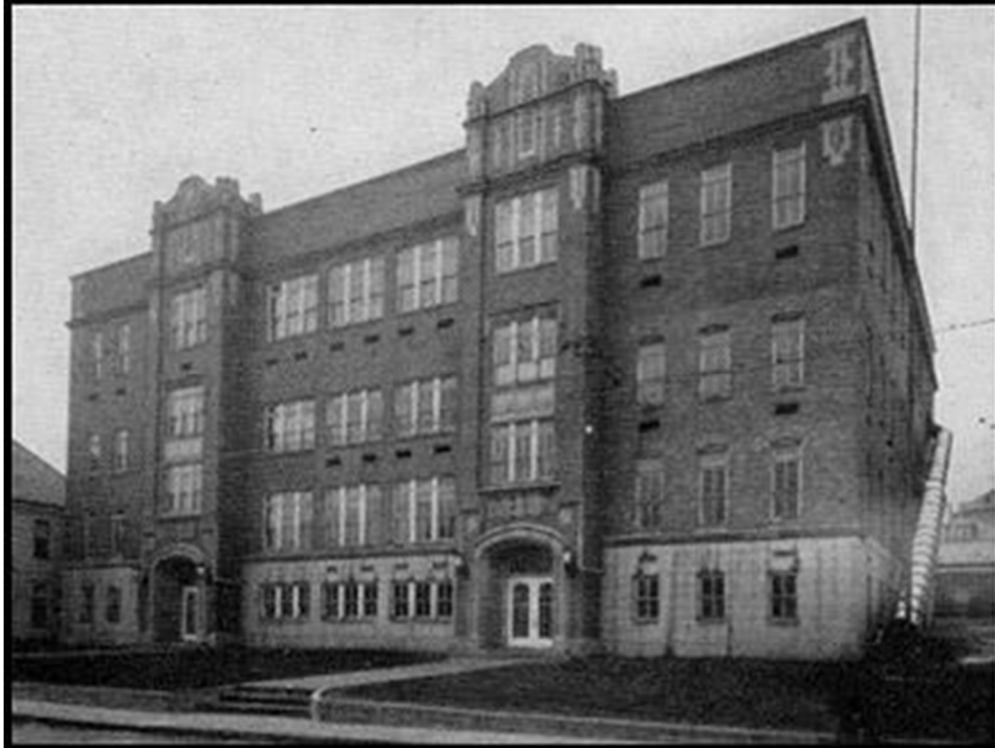


Figure 15



Figure 16



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Figure 17



Figure 18

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Figure 19



Figure 20



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Figure 21



Figure 22

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

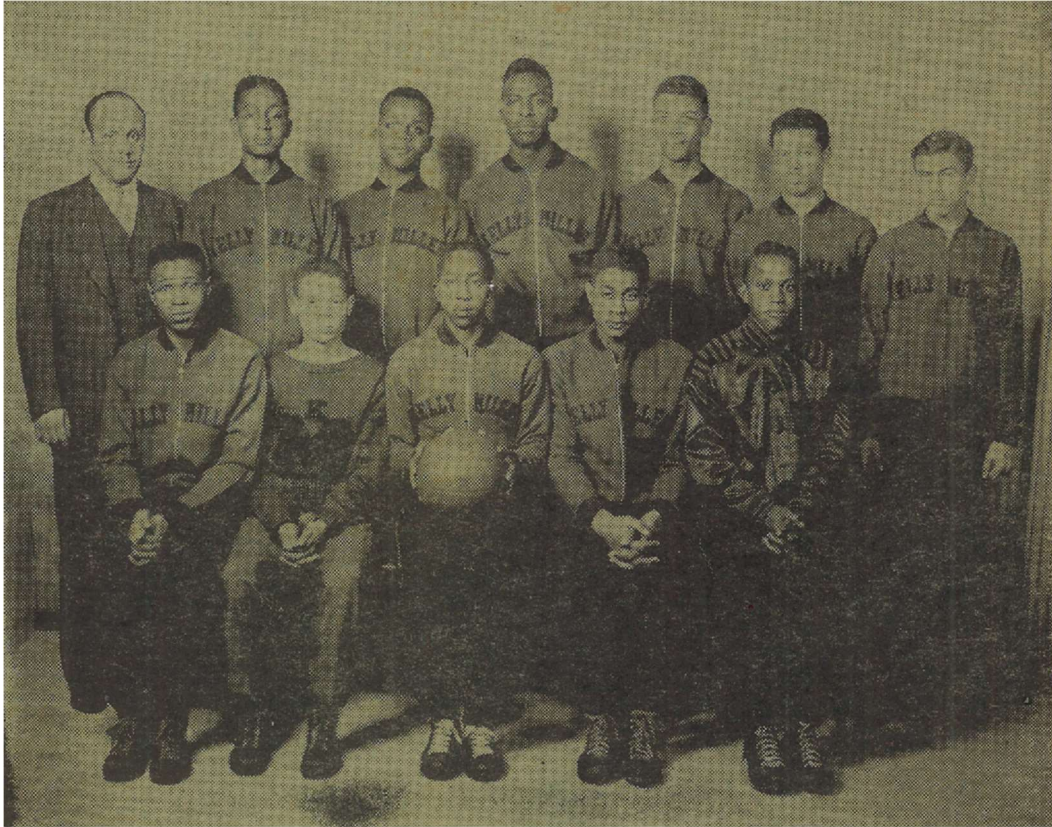


Figure 23



Figure 24



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Figure 25



Figure 26

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Figure 27

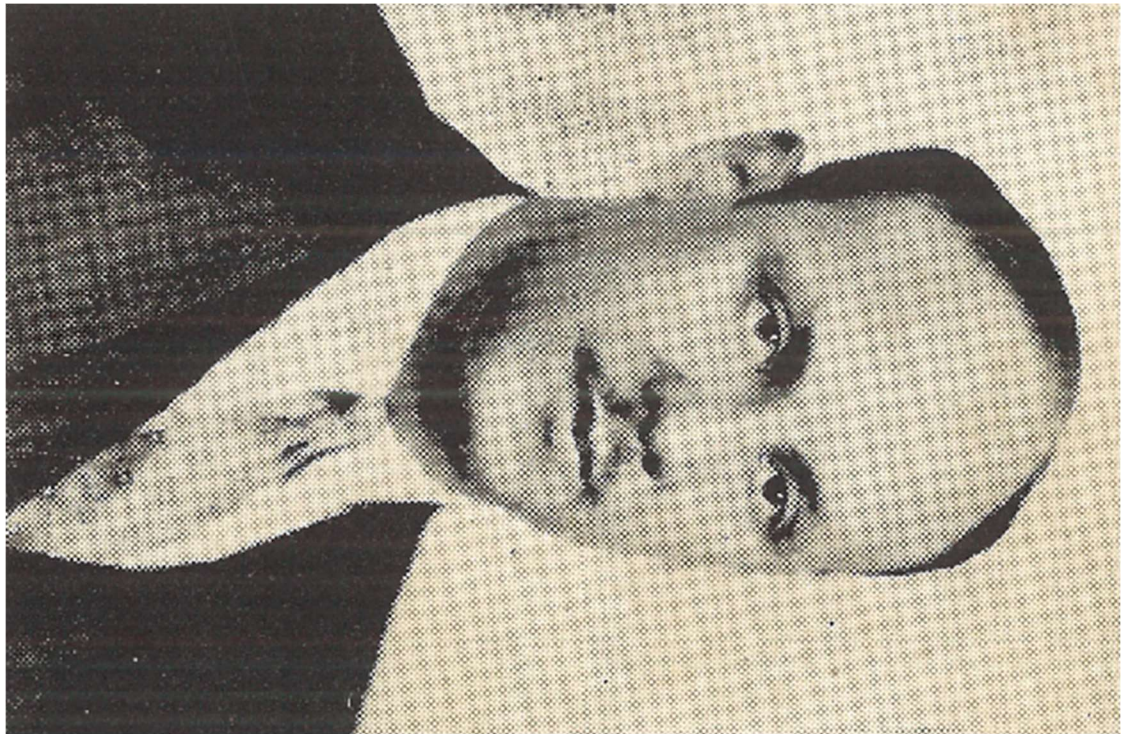


Figure 28



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Figure 29



Figure 30





Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

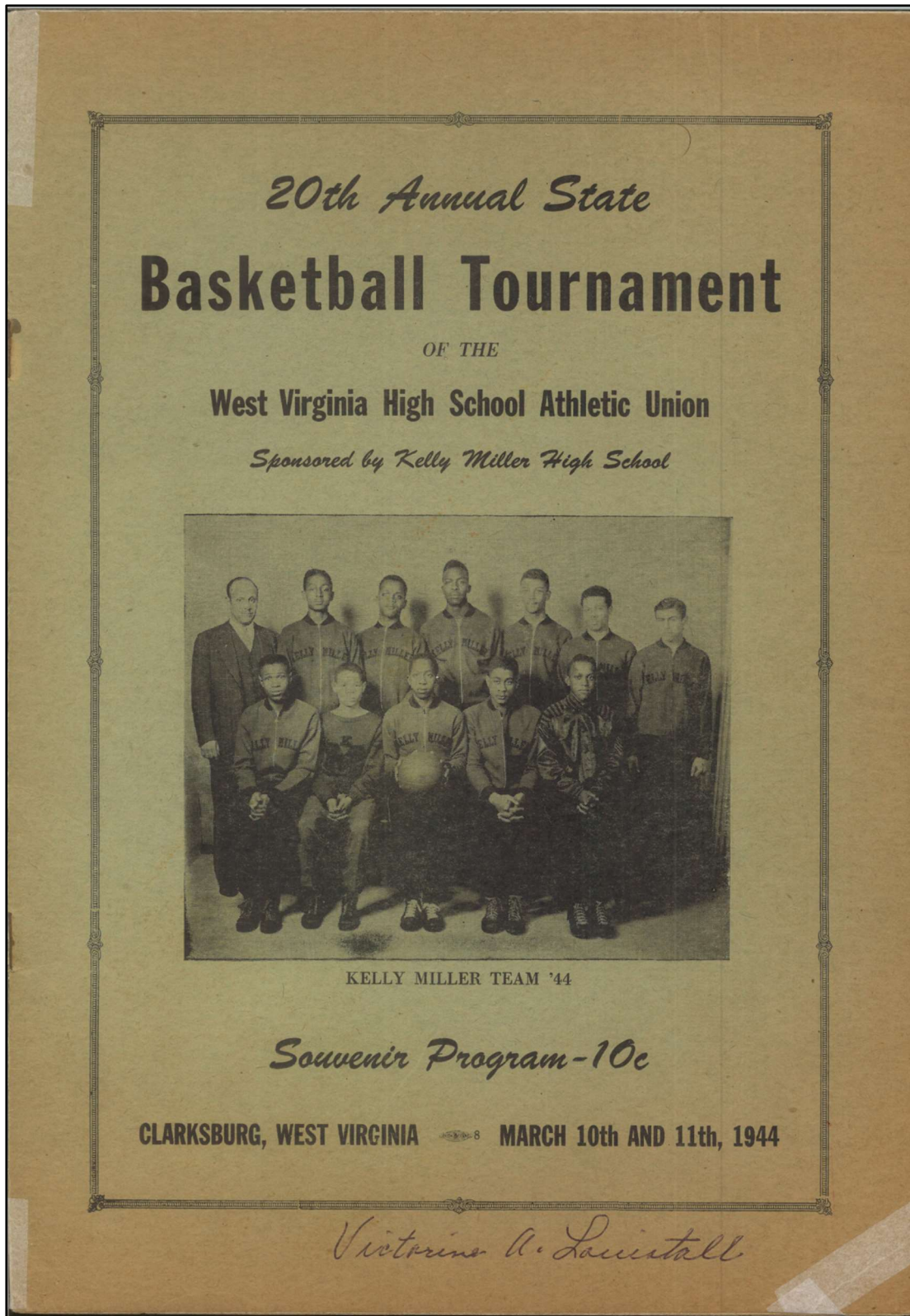


Figure 33a

Kelly Miller School  
 Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
 County and State

### TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

**Friday, March 10**

Luncheon ..... 11:00 to 12:00 A. M.  
 Coaches Meeting ..... 12:00 to 12:30 P. M.  
 Opening Session ..... 2:00 P. M.  
 Dinner ..... 5:00 P. M.  
 Second Session ..... 7:30 P. M.  
 Get Acquainted Ball (Sedwick's Hall) ..... 10:30 P. M.

**Saturday, March 11**

Breakfast ..... 9:00 A. M.  
 Semi finals ..... 11:00 A. M.  
 Dinner ..... 4:00 P. M.  
 Consolation ..... 7:00 P. M.  
 Finals ..... 8:00 P. M.  
 Victory Ball (Sedwick's Hall) ..... 9:30 P. M.

**EAT AT THE NACK-BAR**

OPEN AT ALL TIMES

Sandwiches—Salads—Pop—Pies—Chewing Gum  
 and Candy

**KELLY MILLER HIGH SCHOOL**

Second Floor

Figure 33b

### GAME SCHEDULE OF TOURNAMENT

<p>Game 1                  Simmons (Montgomery) <u>42</u>                  Dunbar (Fairmont) <u>39</u>                  Friday 2:00 P. M.</p> <p>Game 2                  Elkhorn <u>55</u>                  Aracoma (Logan) <u>28</u></p> <p>Game 3                  Garnet (Charleston) <u>51</u>                  Excelsior <u>38</u>                  Friday 7:30 P. M.</p> <p>Game 4                  Kelly Miller (Clarksburg) <u>50</u>                  Washington (Lowdon) <u>32</u></p>	<p>Game 5                  Sat. 11:00 A. M.</p> <p>Game 6                  Sat. 11:00 A. M.</p> <p>Game 7                  Consolation</p>	<p>Game 8                  8:00 P. M.</p>	<p>TROPHIES AWARDED AT                  VICTORY BALL AFTER FINALS                  "SEDWICK'S HALL"</p> <p>MUSIC FOR DANCES BY                  SAMMY ELLIS AND HIS                  ORCHESTRA                  FEATURING EDDIE GALES</p> <p><i>Kelly Miller</i>                  State Champ</p> <p>OFFICIALS</p> <p>Referees—Roy Hairston                  J. Jarret                  J. D. Anderson</p> <p>Scorer—J. C. Oliver</p> <p>Timer—John "Sparky" Evans</p>
	<p><i>Simmons 62</i></p> <p><i>Elkhorn 48</i></p> <p><i>Garnet 42</i></p> <p><i>Kelly Miller 50</i></p> <p><i>Garnet 37</i>  <i>Elkhorn 70</i></p>		

Figure 33c



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

NEWS

**FULL WEEK  
RADIO and TV  
EVERY ISSUE**

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1955
🐞 \$2.00 PER YEAR BY MAIL IN W. VA.—\$2.50 ELSEWHERE—5c COPY

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## Integration Working Okeh Here

This elementary scene in good racial relations will be multiplied throughout Harrison county during the next three years as gradual integration of Negro pupils is carried out. Here youths at Central Junior high school await their classmates at noontime. The first and seventh grades were eliminated at Kelly Miller this year because there are so few pupils in these classes. Negro children are attending schools in their respective city and county areas. Next year, the high school youths will be integrated, leaving about 100 pupils in the second through sixth grades. Even before this year, a few Negroes attended school at Bridgeport and Wilsonburg.



Integration of Negro school pupils is working smoothly in most counties of West Virginia—the most northern of the southern states. Typical of new found friendships and the natural ease with which children, born without prejudice, associate with one another are seventh graders in the Central Junior high school, Ralph Mayers, left, and Ronald Nelson, right. Here they share a few kernels of popcorn as they walk a few blocks before parting for home and noon lunch. Ralph is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mayers, 646½ Locust street, and Ronald's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Nelson, 409½ Water street. The boys admit their going to school together is still a little strange but as many classmates at Central Junior they agree there is no problem. "He's a smart student," Ralph says of Ronald, "got a hundred on a spelling test today." So, the easy pattern is set and every day, more and more, the feeling of tolerance will be replaced with mutual respect and friendship.



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Strike Of U. S. D. ...

Figure 34

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 1

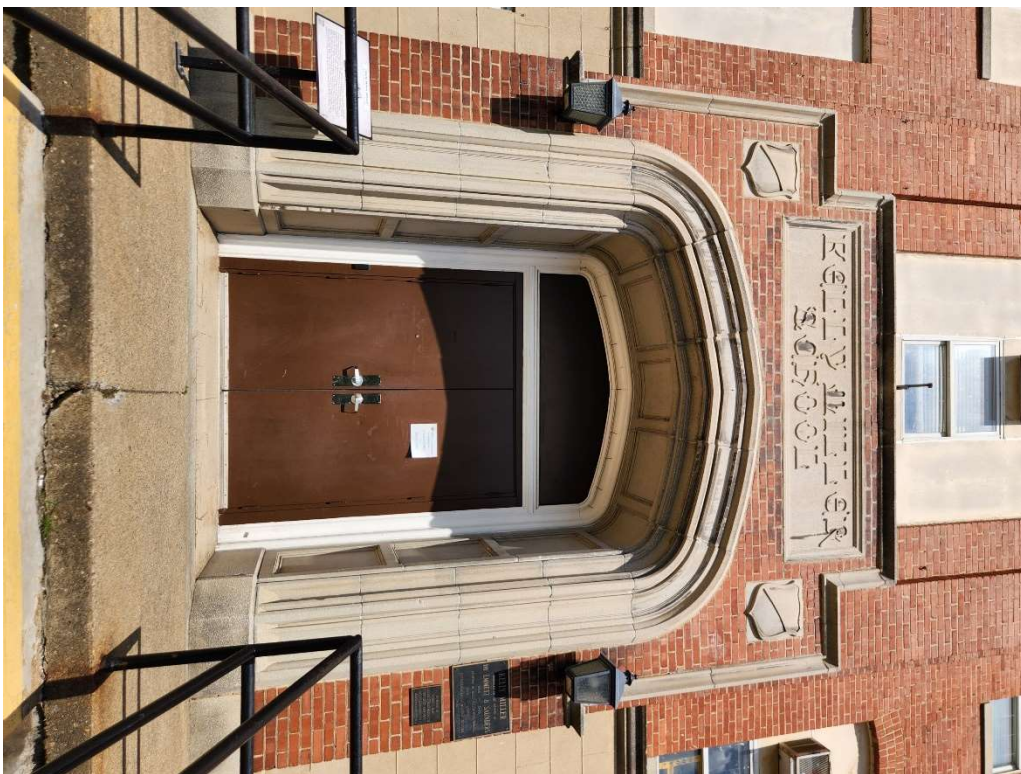


Photo 2



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 3



Photo 4



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

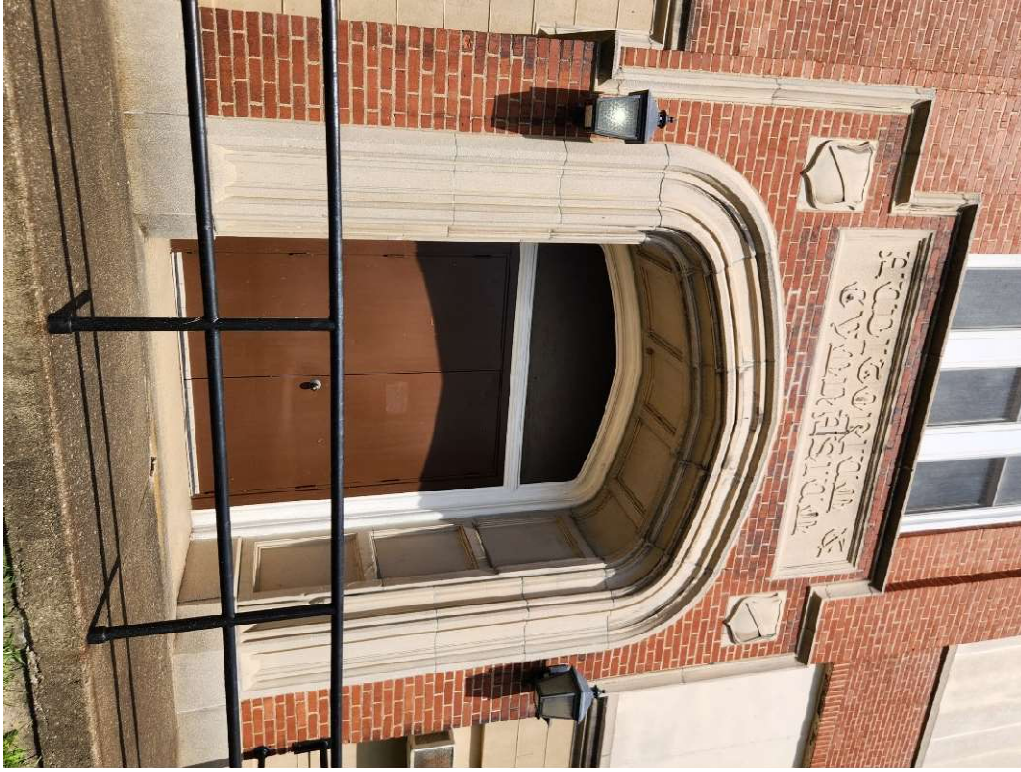


Photo 5



Photo 6



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 7



Photo 8



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

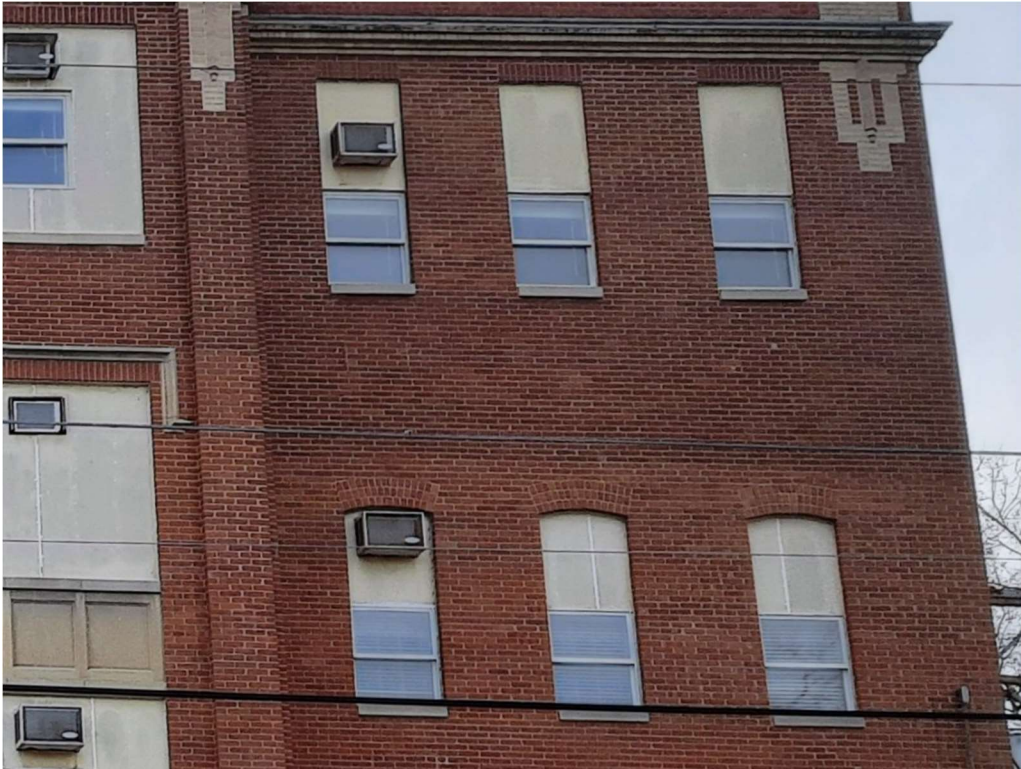


Photo 9



Photo 10



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 11



Photo 12



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 13



Photo 14



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 15

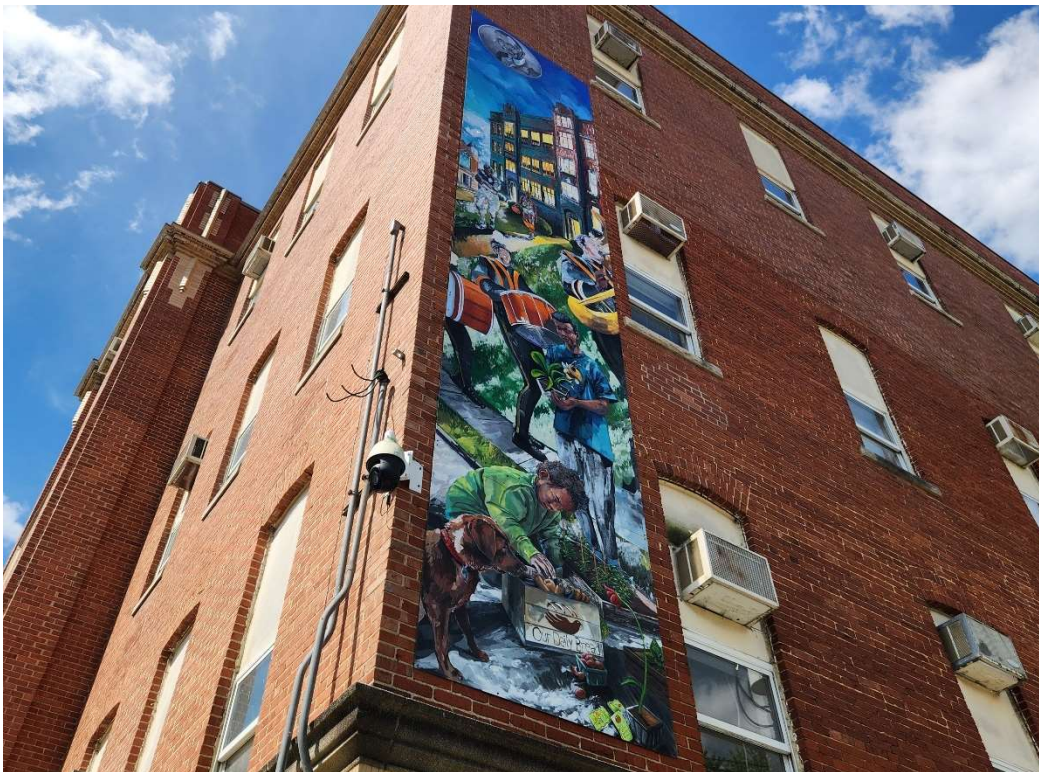


Photo 16



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 17



Photo 18



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 19



Photo 20



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 21



Photo 22



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 23



Photo 24



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

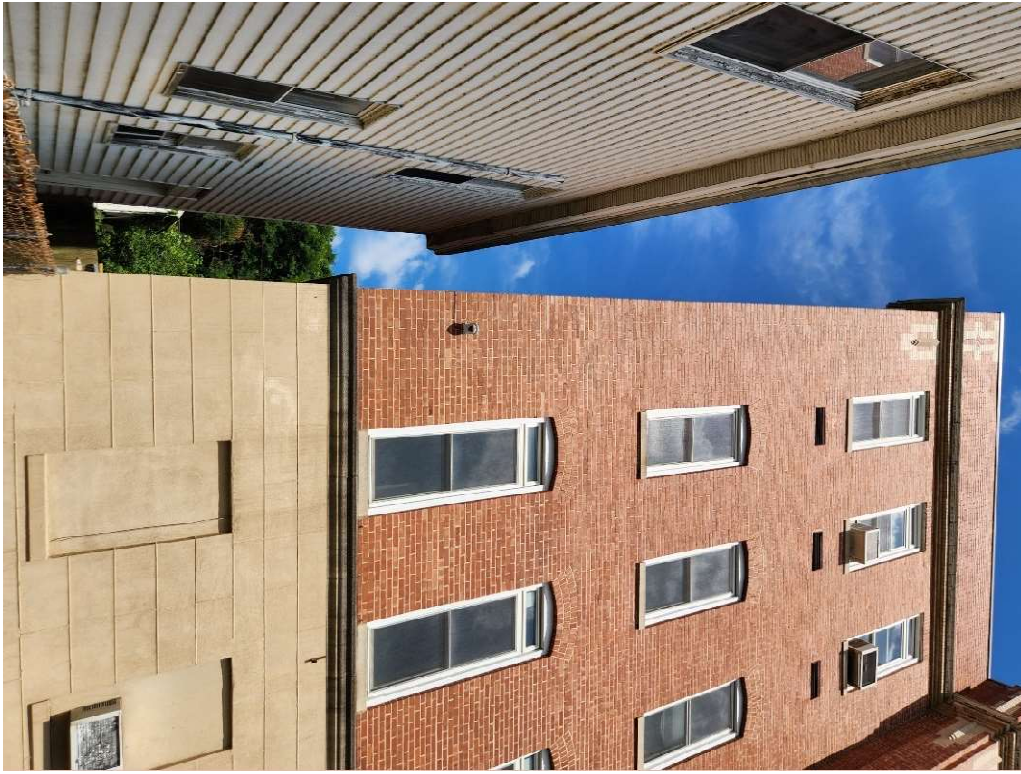


Photo 25



Photo 26



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 27



Photo 28



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 29



Photo 30

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 31



Photo 32



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 33



Photo 34

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 35



Photo 36



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

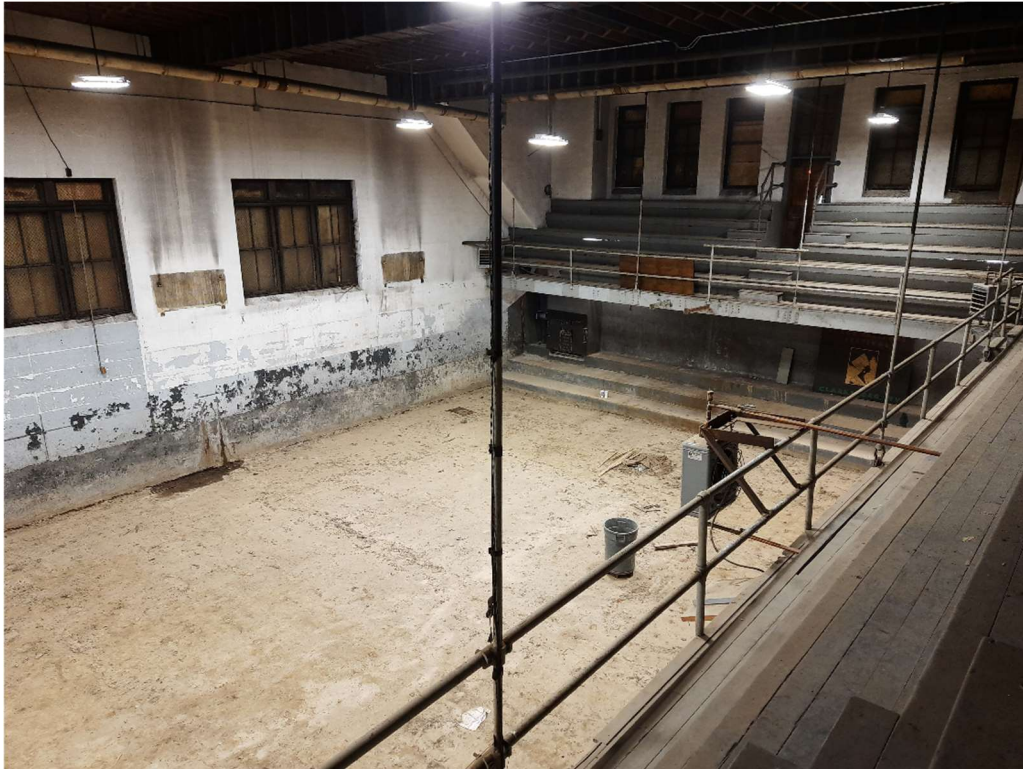


Photo 37

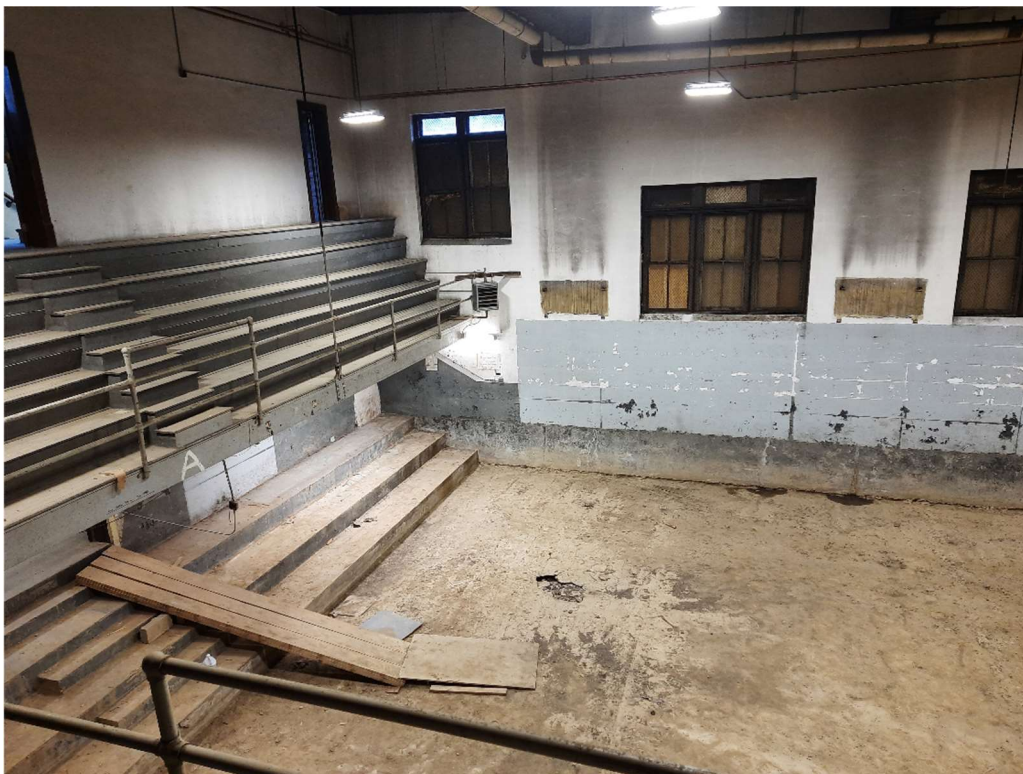


Photo 38



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

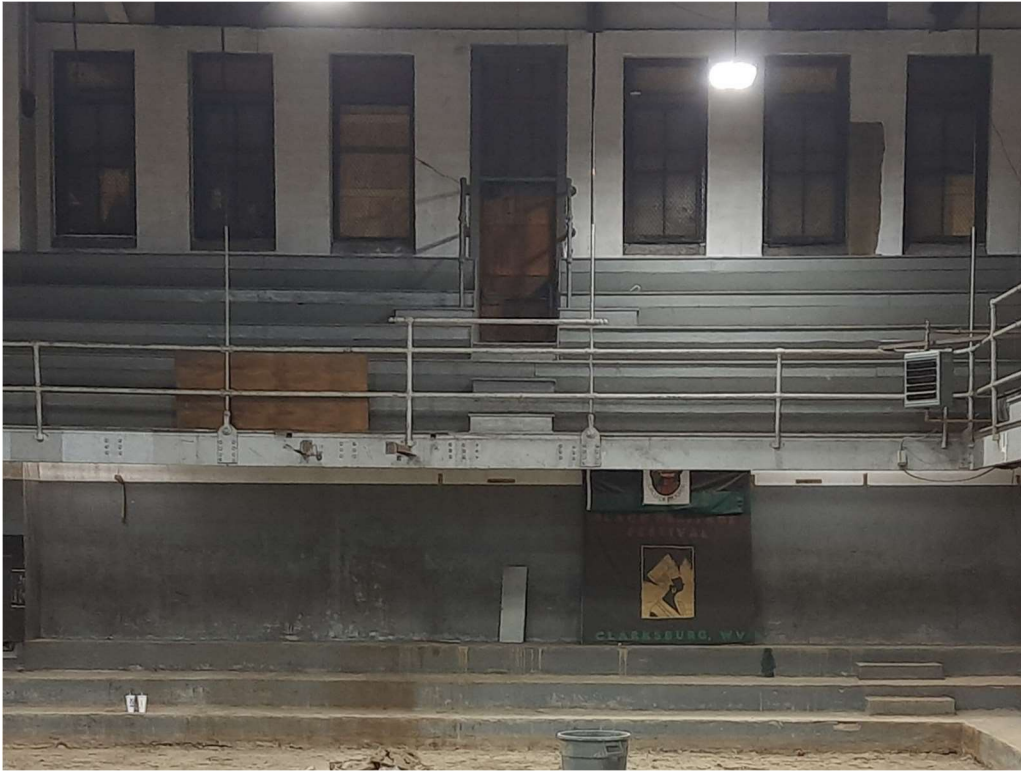


Photo 39



Photo 40

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 41



Photo 42



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 43



Photo 44



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 45



Photo 46

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 47

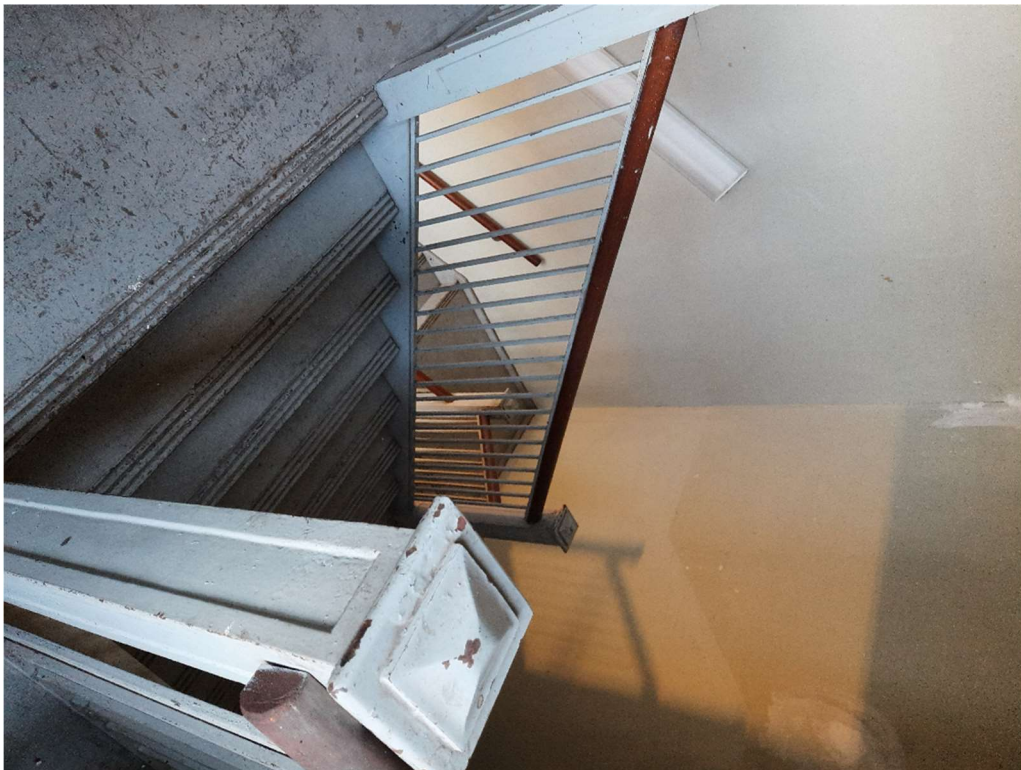


Photo 48



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 49



Photo 50



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 51



Photo 52

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State

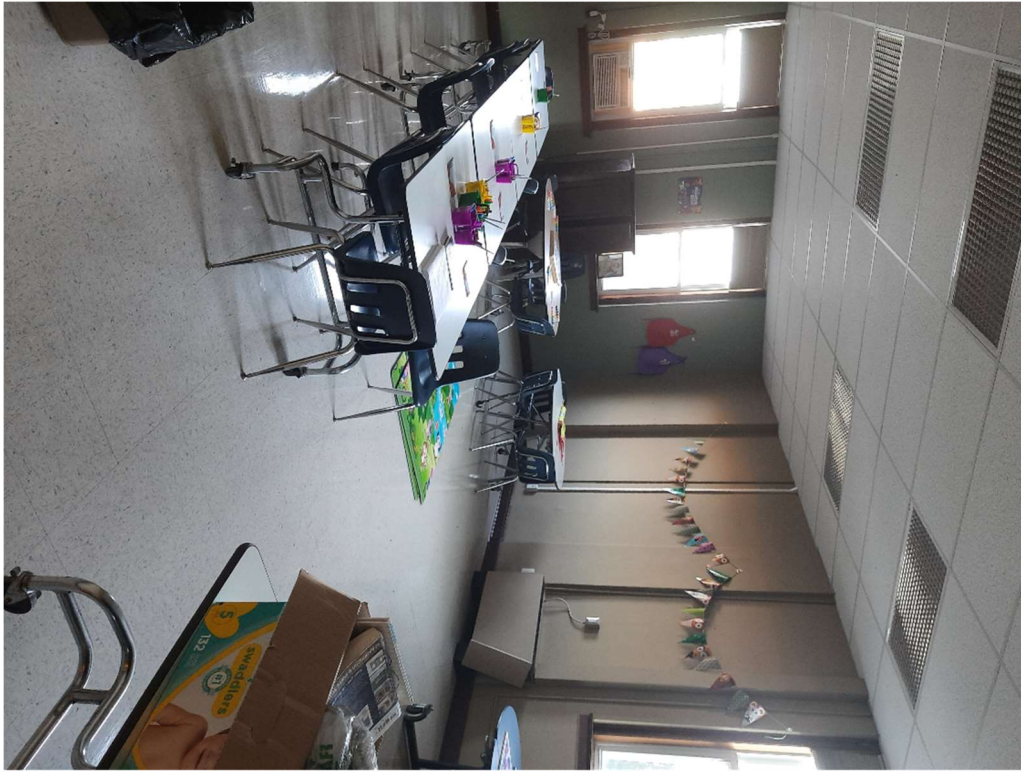


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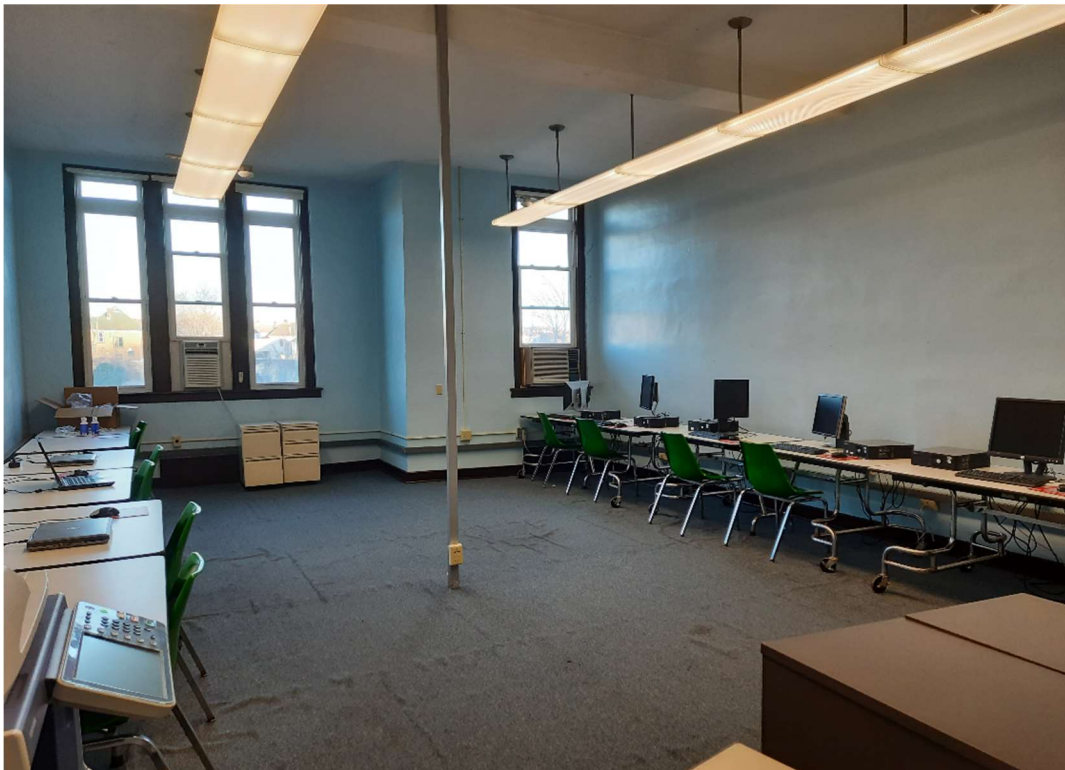


Photo 54



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 55



Photo 56



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 57



Photo 58

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 59

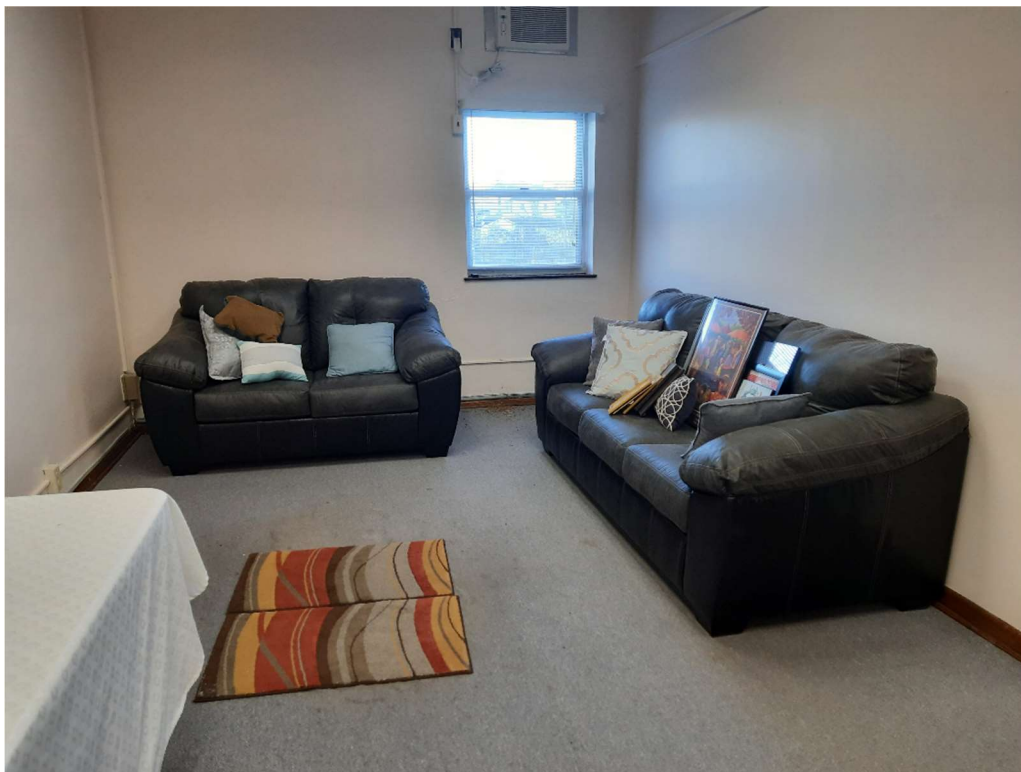


Photo 60



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 61

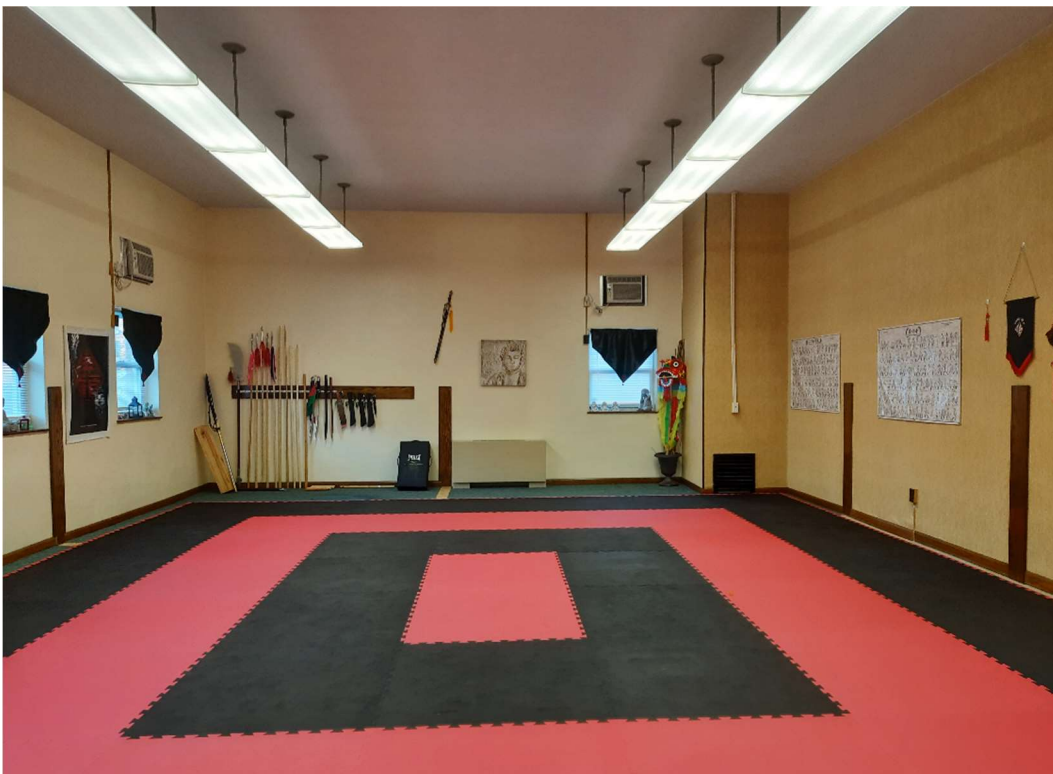


Photo 62



Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 63



Photo 64

Kelly Miller School  
Name of Property

Harrison County, WV  
County and State



Photo 65.