

LATROBE HOMES

Baltimore

Both blacks and whites lived prior to 1940 on a twenty-three acre site bounded by Eager, Aisquith and Madison Streets and by McKim and Homewood Avenues, but once the Baltimore Housing Authority chose it as the site of the city's third* 'slum clearance' project in 1939, the area was officially segregated. The chairman of the BHA announced that only whites would be placed in the 701 units the authority planned to construct

* over

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The Poe Homes [q.v.] on Baltimore's west side, were opened to 'colored' residents on October 1, 1940; the McCulloh Homes, also on the west side and also for African Americans, opened August 4, 1941. The Latrobe Homes, opened August 18, 1941, were the city's first public housing units built for whites, and also the first project on the east side

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on the site, in the hope of protecting the predominantly white area north of Eager Street from decay. The project's architects William D. Lamdin & Associates, spared one building [the former Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church building at Nos. 904-916 East Madison Street] for use as a community center, and St. John the Evangelist [R.C.] Church and convent at Nos. 901-911 East Eager Street and Nos. 908 Valley Street ;

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otherwise all pre-existing buildings were swept away in favor of three-story concrete blocks containing one-, two- and three-bedroom apartment units.

Legal segregation of the units ended after the 1953 Brown vs. Board of Education decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. White tenants gradually moved out, and were replaced by African-American tenants. The Latrobe Homes continued in use at the pre-

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sent time (2014).

'Plan up today to remove Negro school' [in]
Baltimore Sun, August 1, 1939, page
20, column F Authorities seek to
oust African-American public school
from area designated 'white' by BHA
Striner & Blair's Washington and Baltimore
Art Deco (2014) pages 64-65 [Discussion
of origins and design of Latrobe Homes]