MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Park Street Elementary School Inventory Number: M: 26-26-1

Address: 401 Fleet Street, Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland

Owner: Montgomery County Board of Education, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

Tax Parcel Number: p 726 Tax Map Number: GR 342

Project Rockville Town Center Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: __ no X yes Name: Kelly Steele Date: 11/01/1999

Eligibility recommended __ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria X A __ B X C __ D Considerations: __ A __ B __ C __ D __ E __ F __ G X None

Is property located within a historic district? X no __ yes Name of District: _____

Is district listed?: X no __ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description:
Built in 1934-35, the Park Street Elementary School is a 2 1/2-story Georgian style brick building built to address the educational needs of Montgomery County. Additions more than doubled the length of the structure, making it an eight (dormered) bay section with southern flat roof portion. The original three-bay façade has also enlarged due to additions to the east and the west. The decorative elements include slightly projecting beltcourses, false brick quoins, a brick seven-course water table, Palladian and quarter-round fanlight windows, and a massive end chimney with parapeted end. The structure was previously surveyed in 1987 by the Peerless Rockville organization. Since the time of that survey, the second and fourth windows on the first story of the third building segment on the west side were bricked in. The survey did indicate that the interior was undergoing renovation due to changing county needs. Currently the school provides offices for the Department of Health and Human Services. Other than this change in use and the removal of windows, no alterations have occurred to the structure since the survey. No determination of eligibility was made at the time of the 1987 survey.

Prepared by Kelly Steele Architectural Historian SHA

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended __ **Eligibility not recommended** X

Criteria: __ A __ B X C __ D **Consideration** __ A __ B __ C __ D __ E __ F __ G __ None

[signature] 7/29/00

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

[signature] 3/2/00

Reviewer, NR Program **Date**

National Register Evaluation:
While the Park Elementary School does represent the Georgian architectural style as employed by the Montgomery County Board of Education, it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property was previously surveyed by the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places, however, it does not appear on the Locational Atlas for Historic Properties in Montgomery County, nor was it determined eligible for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Rockville.

While the elementary school was constructed and added to in response to overcrowding in the school system, resulting from the growth of the Washington DC Montgomery County suburbs during the World War II period, it does not possess significance within this historic trend. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion A. The school was designed by Howard Cutler, principal designer of Montgomery County public schools and credited with defining the education architecture in the county during the 1920s and 30s. However, he is not individually significant within the historic context. Therefore, the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history and it does not meet Criterion B. The Park Elementary School does embody distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction, specifically representing the Georgian style and Montgomery County school design. As noted in the historic context, the school represents both county academic trends as well as the spirit of national architectural trends. In addition to capturing popular design, the school was built with the help of Work Project Administration (WPA) labor and as such, provides a local architectural example of federal works projects. While these characteristics support significance under Criterion C, the school is not eligible for the National Register because modern additions, alterations, street construction, and use change have compromised the structure's design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. Though the property does possess aspects of location and workmanship, it does not retain integrity. In addition to this loss of integrity, the most outstanding Georgian feature, the main entrance and porch, was destroyed during later additions, and other existing schools from the same period, including the Bethesda-Chevy Chase and the Montgomery Blair schools, serve as better examples of the use of Georgian style in Montgomery County school design. Similarly, the construction of Park Street Elementary was not exclusively a WPA project and the existing Westbrook Elementary School, constructed through the WPA in 1939, stands as a stronger example of the results of the federal program. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, so it is not eligible under Criterion D, and the seven criteria considerations do not apply.

Inventory No. M: 26-26-1

PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. Geographic Region:

____	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
____	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
_X_	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
____	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

____	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
____	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
____	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
_X_	Modern Period	A.D. 1930- Present
____	Unknown Prehistoric	
____	Unknown Historic	

IV. Historic Period Themes:

____	Agriculture
_X_	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
____	Government/Law
____	Military
____	Religion
_X_	Social Educational/Cultural
____	Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Education - School

Known Design Source: Howard Cutler

Site: M:26/26/1

Park Street Elementary School

401 Fleet Street

Built: 1934-35

Architect: Cutter and Burket

Site: M:26/26/2

Richard Montgomery High School

250 Richard Montgomery Drive

Built: 1942

Public

When Montgomery County established a public school system in 1860, Rockville was the first to receive a primary school. Thirty years later, Rockville High School became the County's first. Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street Elementary School, successors to those early educational institutions, are sited on properties which have long been used for public and educational purposes. Both are among the oldest school buildings still in use in Montgomery County.

Survey No. M:26/26/1

Magi No. 16517/5802

DOE __yes ✓no

NR eligible ____yes ✓ no
contrib. element in H.D. _____

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic M:26/26/2 Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street Elementary School M:26/26/1

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 250 Richard Montgomery Drive / 401 Fleet Street ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 1)

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	✓ public	✓ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
✓ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	✓ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	✓ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	✓ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Montgomery County Board of Education

street & number 850 Hungerford Drive telephone no.:

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records RM 560/176&472

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse Park 814/245

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/26//

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	✓ original site
✓ good	___ ruins	✓ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Richard Montgomery High School faces north toward East Jefferson Street and Rockville Pike on Richard Montgomery Drive, which forms a triangular loop to rejoin E. Jefferson. Access to the rear of the building is by a private drive from Mt. Vernon Avenue. Parking areas for faculty, students, and visitors are within the triangle, and west of Richard Montgomery Drive. A residential subdivision is east and south of the school. An undeveloped parcel north of E. Jefferson permits a clear view of the school and grounds from Rockville Pike. However, this parcel, formerly the Rockville Fire Department Carnival Grounds, is slated for future office development. The 19.74 acre educational property includes tennis courts west of the building, an oval track with interior football field and spectator bleachers northwest of the school, and sports practice fields and baseball diamond at the north end of the property. The Park Street Elementary School is northwest of the track. (See site plan, attachment 7.6)

The former Park Street Elementary School was built at the end of Park Street on a cul-de-sac. In 1980, Fleet Street was extended through the cul-de-sac to join East Jefferson Street at Richard Montgomery Drive, separating the school from its namesake street. The building is now known as 401 Fleet Street, or the Fleet Street Annex. Access is by driveway from Fleet, with parking areas in front of the building. The building is located on an elevation overlooking the sports field, track, and Richard Montgomery High School to the east. The site is treed, with large mature oaks to the west and south.

Richard Montgomery High School

This 2-to-3 story steel and concrete block educational complex with brick exterior consists of a core structure connected by interior and exterior passages and hallways to east, west and north additions to form an irregular pierced shape.

The original L-shaped building is a 2-story central south (rear) section with a front (north) east-west leg and a slightly taller rear (south) north-south leg. Later gymnasium additions are attached to the west end, and a hallway connects to further additions and the auditorium to the east. The original main entrance, still lettered "Richard Montgomery High School", is at the exterior juncture of the "L" facing directly up Richard Montgomery Drive to the Pike. A

continued on attachment 7 page 1 (7.1)

Description (continued) : Richard Montgomery and Park Street Schools

recent "L" shaped north addition obscures the entrance and east leg of the original core, connecting the old main entrance to the new north wing by an exterior brick arcade which creates an enclosed space now landscaped as an interior courtyard and rose garden.

The many additions to the building are distinguished by fenestration and facade treatments common to their building periods, but continue the major theme of joined low horizontal rectangular masses. The minor theme of horizontal courses of darker brick and light bands of windows carries to a lesser degree. There is a tendency for the more recent additions to add a competing verticality and introduce modern flat unrelieved surfaces to the facades.

For example, the present north, or front of the complex is composed of the 1980s A. May Nicewarner auditorium to the east, an entry block in the center, and a seven-bay classroom section to the east.

The Nicewarner auditorium facade is composed of large unrelieved red brick sections with a broad band of lighter concrete parging at the top. It is separated from the school section by a walkway to the entrance at the southeast corner. The center entrance block is a flat red brick facade relieved only by a granite parapet cap, letters spelling RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL, and a heavy concrete post and lintel canopy sheltering the double steel doors with large multilight surround at the west corner. The 1960s seven-bay classroom section is sectioned by buff brick piers into vertical bays with three horizontal bands of eight metal framed casement lights separated by decorative panels arranged in a projecting basketweave design.

1942 Richard Montgomery High School

The 1942 2-story common bonded red brick building is situated on a declining slope, exposing the basement level at the west and south. It has a granite-capped parapet surrounding the flat roof with a massive square brick multiflue chimney at the interior southwest corner of the north (front) leg of the ell. The foundation is concrete block and brick.

The building shows the influence of the International and Modern architectural movements of its time in its basic low horizontal mass of joined rectangular forms. The mass is further broken into horizontal story bands, slightly increasing in width with each story, outlined in grey granite and carried through in window units, grouped

in horizontal bands of five units each, and bands of brick detail within the stories. Two vertical blocks, the main entrance block and a vertical block projecting north at the knee of the ell, are emphasized by interrupting the horizontal flow.

The north (front) facade is composed of five large sections. The two west sections have one five-window unit, each window a metal framed casement of rectangular lights, six high and four across, on each story. Similar window units are exposed on the basement level as the ground elevation declines to the west. The third section is the vertical main entrance block, now mostly hidden behind the connecting arcade. The monumental entrance is outlined in gray granite to the level of the tops of the second story window band. The second story has (visible) a rectangular window formed of nine rectangular lights. The steel double entry doors are recessed in a segmental archway. These doors undoubtably replace the originals, more likely to have been wood doors with a mesh-reinforced safety glass light and glass surrounds. The fourth section is another window unit section as described before. The fifth section is a projecting vertical block, the corners emphasized by slightly projecting brick piers with granite caps rising to the base of the parapet. The area between piers is unrelieved brick. The front of the projection has a large central multi-light window unit, now primarily filled with stuccoed material, protected by a wrought iron railing on the exterior.

The other facades are composed of the five-window unit sections as described above with exterior doors and modifications as necessary for exits and connection to later wings. The rear basement level is exposed.

Interior:

Staircases flank the main entrance doors and a short hallway leads to central east-west, north-south corridors the length of the "L" with classrooms on either side of the halls. The hall floors are tan terrazzo with brass spacers in the center and brown terrazzo at the edges and coving. The stair treads and landings are slate. The walls are glazed buff ceramic tile to above head height (about 8 ft.) with plaster above. Banks of lockers are recessed flush with the walls. The ceiling height in the old cafeteria area (now the art room) is fifteen feet, lowered to twelve, the height of the window units. This area has cinder block interior walls rather than the finished plaster one would expect in classrooms, perhaps reflecting its utility uses.

Description (continued) : Richard Montgomery and Park Street Schools

Massive laminated wood columns replace the concrete ones of the basement level immediately below. Original wood doors and wooden surrounds have been replaced during interior renovation, as has the flooring, now modern vinyl tile.

The basement level south interior walls are cinder block with areas of brick infill, expecially around windows, evidence of changes through the years. Massive concrete columns, approximately one yard square support the upper floor framing members. The ceiling has been dropped, but was likely also 15 feet high in this area.

Park Street Elementary School

The original core structure of the Park Street School , like Richard Montgomery High School, has had many alterations and additions through the years. Currently the interior is under renovation and the building is not accessible to the public.

Stylistically, this 1934-35 structure is essentially a four-(dormered) bay, 2-1/2 story common bonded brick Georgian revival structure, doubled by a contemporary addition to an eight- (dormered) bay building. The end gabled roof with eight front-gabled dormers on each side is slate. The foundation is concrete and brick. There is a three-story flat-roofed addition on the south facade which is the same height as the original, due to the declining grade, which is built in the same style. Several later additions are to the north and west.

The Georgian revival core building is square, with fine masonry detailing typical of the Georgian period including slightly projecting beltcourses, false brick "quoins" at the corners, a brick seven-course water table, Palladian and quarter-round fanlight windows, and a massive exterior end chimney with parapeted end. Windows are double sash 8/8 with grey granite sills. The public or "front" facade is the chimneyed and parapeted end of the structure facing north to Fleet Street.

The three-bay north facade has a central double-stack end chimney with a granite cap, also used for the top of the parapet wall. The third, or attic, story has quarter-round or half-fanlight windows flanking the chimney. Centered on the chimney is a large Palladian window with brick surround containing three granite keystones, one at the apex and arch base on either side. A four-course brick belt is below these windows. The second story has one large 8/8 window with a wide,

Description (continued) : Richard Montgomery and Park Street Schools

splayed, brick jack arch with granite keystone as lintels in all three bays. A two-course brick belt connects the granite sills. The first story has been altered by three separate later additions including a glazed entrance area. The additions extend the first story to the east and west.

The east facade continues the masonry details of beltcourses, false quoin corners, granite sills and smaller splayed brick lintels without keystones. The roof has eight front-gabled dormers, sided with shingles painted slate gray, each with an arched double-sash tracery window. The building appears to have been built in four contemporary sections. The first rank of four dormers constitutes one section; the second is nearly indistinguishable. A square chimney stack is located near the ridgepole at the juncture, suggesting that a chimney or parapet end may have been removed for the second section. An expansion joint is between the brickwork of the two sections, and the first section mortar is grey-white while the second is buff. The granite sills are a slightly different color as well.

Each section has a group of five evenly-spaced 16-light (8 rows of 4 lights) metal frame casement windows, the center portion fixed, the top and bottom sections hinged. The basement level of the second section is exposed and five similar windows are grouped as on upper stories. At the south end of the building, a 16 light window is placed between stories. A double steel exterior door with splayed brick jack arch lintel is below this window. A set of concrete stairs accesses the entrance.

The south facade is occupied by the third section, a three-story parapeted flat-roofed addition. Although the declining grade allows a full three stories, the building's third story is the same height as the second story of the main block. The brickwork and architectural features are similar to the main block.

The east facade is similar to the west, except that the second section south door area on the west facade is here occupied by three bricked-in window openings. The first section has the north two windows of the five bricked in on the second story, and the south three bricked in on the first story. The north two windows have been replaced by an addition which wraps around to the front.

Description (continued) : Richard Montgomery and Park Street Schools

The front additions are parapeted and flat-roofed, one-story, and built in their period style. The northeast (most recent) addition is of tan brick and mortar with brown metal trim and metal standing seam type roofing, an irregular shape, and no fenestration in the front. The center/ northwest addition is buff mortared red brick with granite parapet caps. The parapet breaks over the three-light vertical casement windows which have decorative marble chip masonry overpanels. The same overpanels are used over the glazed central entry foyer. The south one-story addition is red brick with plain three-part metal casement windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/26/1

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	✓ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
✓ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

~~Earlier buildings: 1860, 1876, 1904-05~~

Specific dates Present: Park 1934-35 Richard Montgomery 1942 **Builder/Architect** (B) (Park)Bradley C. Karn

(B) (RMHS)Morrison Brothers

(A) (RMHS)Cutter&Burket

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

When Montgomery County established a public school system in 1860, Rockville was the first to receive a primary school. Thirty years later, Rockville High School became the County's first. Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street Elementary School, successors to those early educational institutions, are sited on properties which have long been used for public and educational purposes. Both are among the oldest school buildings still in use in Montgomery County.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:
1. Historic context theme(s): Cultural, Social, Educational
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s): Maturation and Expansion ; 1873-1931.
4. Resource type: Educational Structure

History and Support

The properties on which Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street Elementary School are sited have long been used for public and educational purposes.

The first public school in Rockville was located on the Rockville Pike, in front of the present site of Richard Montgomery High School. It dated from about 1860, when the County established a public school system and set up a Board of School Commissioners to operate it. In the first State report of school statistics nine years later, the Rockville school was listed as enrolling 47 pupils.

continued on attachment 8.1

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery and Park Street Schools

In 1876, the Board of School Commissioners purchased three acres of land at a cost of $600. 1/ The school, which replaced the earlier building nearby, had three rooms on the first floor and a large hall above. It served grades one through seven. Students going on to high school ususally attended the private Rockville Academy on Jefferson Street. (See Atlas, Attachment 8.8)

In 1892, the Board established a high school at Rockville, the first in Montgomery County. A $300 addition to the primary school allowed the upper grades to meet in the same building.

The first graduation occurred in June, 1897. The Montgomery County Sentinel reported that the twelve graduates presented musical and literary pieces to a large audience at the Opera House. 2/

The students quickly outgrew the building known as Rockville HIgh School, so in 1904 the Maryland General Assembly authorized a new one. Property owned by the late Dr. E.E. Stonestreet, at the corner of East Montgomery Avenue and Monroe Street, was purchased for $5,000. 3/ Thomas C. Groomes designed the building, and contractor Charles Viett built it for $20,300. Just as the new school building was nearing completion, a fire broke out in the old public school.

"Montgomery County High School" opened for business in its new brick quarters on September 7, 1905. (See Photograph, attachment 8.6) The school was open to students from any part of Monntgomery County, and many traveled on the B&O Railroad daily from Boyds, Dickerson, Barnesville, and other up-county towns.

In the early 1900s, manual training and business programs were added to the curriculum. Athletic teams from Rockville, Gaithersburg, Kensington, and Sandy Spring High Schools competed in several sports.

By 1910, the high school was so overcrowded that two rooms were rented in the Corcoran Hotel on East Montgomery Avenue for classes. The schoool building was enlarged in 1916-17 to 19 classrooms designed for about 800 students, plus a room for the school board office.

One popular event vividly remembered by former students was "Educational Day" or "Athletic Day". Begun in 1914 and continuing through almost to World War II, the day featured contests between

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School

County schools. A parade through town, oratorical contest, baseball, football, and basketball games, track and field, and drill events highlighted this annual event.

In 1926, under School Superintendent Edwin W. Broome, the 12-year school program became mandatory. This is one of the many changes which Broome made to transform an undistinguished, rural school system into one which led the State.

During World War I, the assembly room was used as a gymnasium, with Rockville citizens donating funds to purchase equipment. With the opening of a new gym in 1929, 4/ basketball became a popular sport.

Black high school students attended "Rockville Colored High School," which became known as Lincoln. In 1935, the Board named Richard Montgomery High School to distinguish it from the Colored High School.

By the early 1930s, the school was crowded. (This situation had been relieved somewhat by the first three grades being housed, since the end of World War I, at the Rockville Academy building on Jefferson Street.) Beginning in 1931, the Board discussed purchasing land for a new school. When the Fairgrounds site on the Rockville Pike became available in 1933, the land was bought.

In 1934, the Board awarded a contract to construct a four-room structure in the woods at the site of the old race track grandstand, a major feature of the old Fairgrounds. The new building was named Rockville Elementary School, opening the following year to the first and second grades. Members of the original teaching staff were Mrs. Hattie Kingdon, Miss Mary Brewer, Miss Sarah Ward, and Mrs. Lucy V. Barnsley.

Also in 1935, Bradley C. Karn contracted to add to the building, making it a six-classroom elementary school. (See photograph, attachment 8.7) Rockville Elementary School operated without its own principal until Miss Kristin Nilsson was appointed in June 1936.

During the second World War, Mrs. Barnsley maintained a victory garden at the elementary school. It was farmed by the school's boys, and its harvest was canned by the school's girls.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School

In later years, two additions were made to the original elementary school structure to accommodate the growing student population. In 1944, four classrooms were built in a second, smaller building with the help of Federal funds. A fifth and final classroom was added here in 1948. 5/

In 1954, the West Rockville Elementary School opened on Beall Avenue, and principal Al Bigson and the first five grades were transferred there. The little school on Park Street became a Junior High School, with E. Guy Jewell as principal. The City's burgeoning population necessitated construction of a new junior high on the eastern side of Rockville. When Broome Junior High opened in 1957, the school at the Fairgrounds once again became an elementary school facility. It was renamed the "Park Street Elementary School". Mr. Clair A. Baum was appointed principal, serving until 1962. The school housed kindergarten through sixth grade, as well as junior high special education classes. Park Street School was among the first to initiate Montgomery County's desegregation program in September, 1959.

The Park Street Elementary School closed in June, 1977. There were 56 students in the last graduating class. 6/

In March, 1940, a fire destroyed most of the earlier part of the Richard Montgomery High School building on Monroe Street, including the offices of the Board of Education. While students attended classes at the Rockville Academy building, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Kensington Junior High, and elsewhere, the Board planned for a new high school building. Five acres were purchased adjacent to the Fairgrounds, at a cost of $4560. 7/ Architects Howard Cutter and Rhees E. Burket were commissioned to design a junior and senior high school.

The Morrison Brothers built a 23-room school building for $244,990. A second unit of shop rooms and cafeteria above cost $30,000; this was joined to the main building by a covered walkway. In October, 1942, students paraded from Monroe Street to the new school. Gymnasium classes continued at the Monroe Street site, until a new gym was constructed in 1951. A football field was designed within the oval of the old Fair racetrack in 1946.

The 1950 Report on School Construction listed Richard Montgomery High School with 15 classrooms, two commercial rooms, two laboratories, two

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School

home arts rooms, three shops, art and drafting rooms, library, cafeteria, and office. Three years later, an addition with 12 teaching stations and a gymnasium was completed. 8/

In 1954, students began being pulled off to the Rockville Junior High School and Park Street, and later to newly-built junior high schools. Richard Montgomery was exclusively a Senior High by 1955. Land purchased from adjacent propery owners provided egress and space for an addition. 9/ The School Board sold the front section of the Fairgrounds to private parties. 10/

In 1958-60, 13 classrooms, a library, cafeteria, and alterations were completed. Ballfields and a 2000-seat grandstand were added. Yet another addition was made in 1963; in a section which became the

front of the school, Film Properties built a girls' gym, music room, and new shop facility, and made some other internal alterations, adding 20 teaching stations. Other contracts updated the automobile shop, remodeled older sections, renovated laboratories, and improved the grounds. Additional land was purchased for a future auditorium, 11/ which was completed in 1984, and named for A. May Nicewarner, long-time secretary to the principal.

The school's physical growth reflected changes in Richard Montgomery's curriculum. Manual training classes evolved into the vocational course. Enrollment in this curriculum was encouraged by specialties in auto mechanics, cartography, printing, carpentry, and cabinetmaking. The commercial course, first offered in 1908, has always been popular, particularly with the establishment of a Farmer's Bank branch at the school. The academic course has increased in program and enrollment, and the general course has been available for less specialized study.

Richard Montgomery High School has an approximate enrollment of 1250 for the 1986-87 school year. In September , 1987, it will begin a new International Baccalaureate program.

Footnotes

1. Montgomery County Land Records, EBP15/466.
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, June 11, 1987.
3. Land Records, op. cit. 178/223.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School

4. Sentinel, op. cit., February 8, 1929.
5. History of Park Street School, 1966.
6. Sentinel, op. cit., June 16, 1977.
7. Land Records, op. cit., 814/245.
8. E. Guy Jewell, "Richard Montgomery High School", The Montgomery County Story, Vol. 24, No. 2, 1981.
9. Land Records, op. cit., 2436/278 and 2538/400.
10. Ibid, 2539/421.
11. Ibid, 2457/341.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/26/1

E.Guy Jewell, unpublished abstracts at Montgomery County Historical Society and From One Room to Open Space (1976), "Richard Montgomery High School", The Montgomery County Story, Vol. 24, No. 2, (1981). History Committee, History of Park Street School, (1986). Plat, Newspaper articles.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 19.74 acres

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Park: Part of Stonestreet Tract fronting on Fleet Street:
RM: Part of Fairground Park fronting on East Jefferson Street

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Eileen McGuckian	J. Christensen Arch. description	
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	March, 1987
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

M: 26-26-1

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Park Street Elementary School

AND/OR COMMON: Fleet Street Annex

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 401 Fleet Street

CITY, TOWN: Rockville ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8th

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	✓PUBLIC	✓OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
✓BUILDING(S)	___PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	___ENTERTAINMENT	___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	✓YES: RESTRICTED	✓GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY	___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Montgomery County Telephone #: 217-2500

STREET & NUMBER: 101 Monroe Street

CITY, TOWN: Rockville ___ VICINITY OF STATE: MD zip code: 20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Department of Assessments and Taxation

Liber #: 4222

Folio #: 207

STREET & NUMBER: 51 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor

CITY, TOWN: Rockville, MD STATE: 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

M:26-26-1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	✓ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	✓ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
✓FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first building erected for Park Street Elementary School in 1935 closely resembles its original character. It stands, as it stood in the 1930s and 1940s, as a solidly constructed school in the Georgian style.

Records indicate that the first building on the site was a four classroom school called Rockville Elementary School. Eventually, the present two-story Georgian structure dominated the site on Park Avenue and Oak Avenue. Designed by Howard Wright Cutler, the building is a two-story classical Georgian structure with attic and basement. It is built in red brick with flat walls, white trim (wood cornice), articulated brick quoins, high hipped Georgian style slate roof with dormer windows and Georgian style chimney stacks terminating the building at each end. The main building block is 11 bays long (with 8 dormer windows) and roughly rectangular. A one-story block with basement is to the rear.

* The building's most outstanding feature was its main entry, defined by a small, shallow, yet extremely refined Georgian classical porch with swan's neck pediment. This elegant Georgian element was located on its gable end which faces the street. The vertical directional force of the articulated skyline created by the double Georgian chimney stacks gives this facade a grand and monumental character from the public view. The perfect symmetry of this Georgian edifice is most pronounced on this elevation. Here, the traditional tripartite (three-part) composition orders the elevation horizontally (three divisions created by courses and expressed by fenestration) and vertically (articulated by the center chimney stacks).

The horizontal extension of the building belies its interior plan which is arranged around a central hall that extends the full length of the building. Classrooms flank the hall and are arranged in a symmetrical fashion. The first floor has four classrooms (approximately 33'6" X 23') in the main block and two classrooms (approximity

* **The entry no longer exists. Modern additions have destroyed and blocked it.**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

32' X 30') the rear section; the second floor has four classrooms. Each classroom has five windows. The school includes two staircases (one to the right of the front door; the other to the left at the end of the main block). Both staircases are symmetrically balanced by bathrooms on the opposite sides of the hall.

The school's character as a Georgian style edifice is preserved. However, there have been modern building campaigns on the site which modify and obstruct the view of this structure on the northwest side.

NOTES FOR ENTIRE TEXT

1. See Appendix, E. Guy Jewell, From One Room to Open Space: A History of Montgomery County Schools From 1732 to 1965, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Public Schools, 1976, 320-1.
2. "History of Park Street School," Park Street File, Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools.
3. Karin M.E. Alexis's manuscript (1988) on the architectural history of educational institutions in Montgomery County, 1900-1945 (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust) includes a summary of Howard Cutler's architectural career and his work for the Montgomery County Board of Education. Some valuable information on Cutler was found in the Archives of the American Institute of Architects (RG 803 Box 221, Folder 71).

REPOSITORIES AND SOURCES

Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;
Construction Division, Montgomery County;
Archives, The American Institute of Architects;

Also see Karin M.E. Alexis' manuscript on the architectural history of Montgomery County's Public Schools: 1900-46 (1988) (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust).

SIGNIFICANCE

M:26-26-1

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	✓ARCHITECTURE	✓EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
✓1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Park Street Elementary School (1934-5) is an important architectural landmark in the history of Montgomery County and its public schools. It is one of the last examples of a two-story Georgian school building-type which was used between the wars for public schools in Montgomery County. Significantly, it is in a good state of preserve, thereby, an excellent example of the kind of academic image sought in early 20th century Montgomery County. In addition, it was built with the help of WPA labor. As such, it is a local architectural example of federal works projects conceived to help resolve some of the problems created by the Great Depression of the 1930s.

This elementary school is also the product of the phenomenal growth of the Washington, D.C. suburbs in Montgomery County, Maryland, during the World War II period. In particular, there was a great increase in the number of young school children in the suburbs nearest Washington, D.C. Between 1920 and 1940 the number of students attending public school rose from 6,195 to 15,096. During the same period, the county's expenditures on schools dramatically increased, reaching $2,437,770.83 in 1945.[1]

The location selected for a new elementary school in Rockville was the site of the fair grounds. In 1933, the fair grounds were purchased. One year later, ground was broken for construction. The inception of the school was a four classroom structure built with the help of WPA labor and completed in 1935. Future additions made the building large enough to house sixth grade students.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:26-26-1

see attached

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 31.7 acres with campus of Richard Montgomery High School; roughly 7.7 acres for Park Street School;

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bordered by Fleet Street, Richard Montgomery High School, Monroe Street and Mount Vernon Place;

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE KARIN M.E. ALEXIS, PH.D., ARCHITECTURAL & ART HISTORY

ORGANIZATION DATE JUNE 1988

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

2449 Villanova Drive 280-1107

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Vienna VA 22180

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINED)

Miss Kristin Nilsson became Rockville Elementary School's first principal in 1936. What has been described as the "first and only" school museum in the history of Montgomery County's public schools was housed in the school's upper hall. Later, the school was used as a junior high school.[2]

The architect was Howard Wright Cutler (- 1948) who shaped and define the educational architecture in Montgomery County during the 1920s and 1930s. Cutler was not a nationally known architect, but he was a professional. Selecting Howard Cutler as the principal designer of Montgomery County public schools reveals the county's desire to project an image of professionalism and modernity, and to create a new academic image.

Howard Cutler came to Washington from New York State with a professional training. In New York, he worked in the architectural offices of J. Foster Warner for one year and Gordon & Madden for seven years. Cutler was a member of the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) before he was elected to the national organization of the AIA in 1915. At this time, he had been in practice with his own firm, Hutchinson & Cutler, for five years.[3]

As an architect, Cutler well represented the spirit of early 20th century America ----- its preoccupation with tradition and the American Renaissance (late 19th and early 20th century), as well as its devotion to new and modern approaches. At the same time, Cutler was a practical architect who seems to have given thought to economical and practical modern design. As Cutler brought standards of professionalism and an academic vision to his work, he transformed county school architecture.

This Georgian style edifice represents the persistence of the classical tradition during the first half of the 20th century, a period when traditionalism and modernism came head to head. During the 1930s, architect Howard Cutler defined the academic image of Montgomery County's public schools along traditional lines. He often relied upon references to classical architecture. Cutler was concerned with the great traditions and symbolic potential of architecture. In 1934, Cutler used the Georgian style for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and Montgomery Blair High School.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

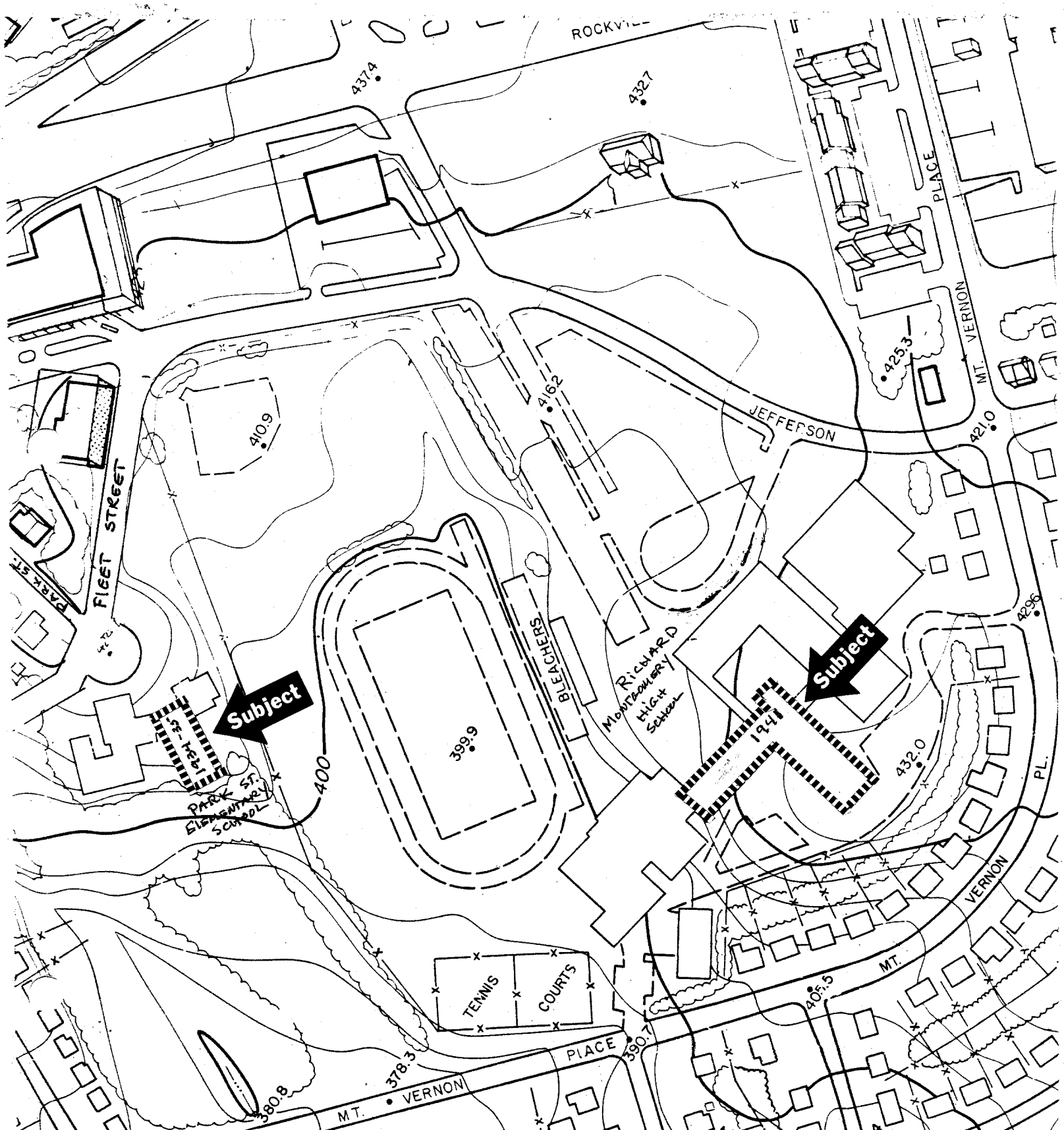
The Georgian is the name given to the English Baroque, a classical 17th and 18th century style. The English Baroque is known for its symmetry, dignity and academicism, and for being more restrained than continental Baroque styles. A variation of the Georgian was transplanted to the English colonies in North America, including Virginia and Maryland. Both Williamsburg, Virginia, and Annapolis, Maryland, are known for their Georgian Colonial architecture. Georgian architecture was rejected by Americans after the American Revolution because the stye was associated with English rule. The revived classicism of the American Renaissance during the late 19th and early 20th century fostered a Georgian Revival.

During the 1930s, John D. Rockefeller's restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, resulted in another Georgian Revival. By this time, the public's perception of Georgian architecture was positive. As a classical style, the Georgian represented tradition, civility, and stability. Most importantly, it was associated with the roots of American culture, and perceived of as an American style. The Georgian was self-consciously viewed as a style that linked American culture to European civilization.

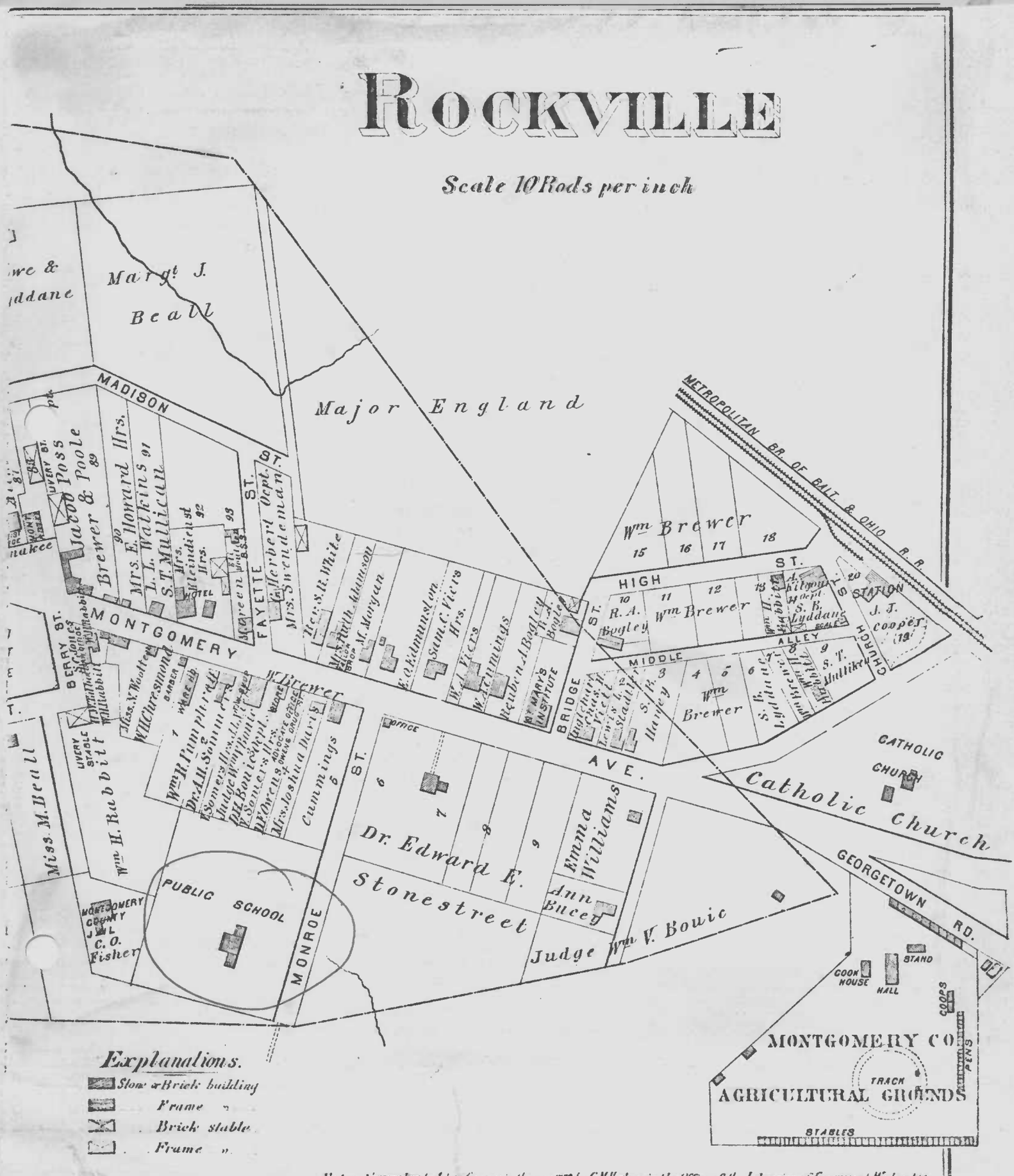
The choice of the Georgian style for schools in Montgomery County was more logical than one might initially think. By selecting the Georgian, architects made reference to Maryland's early history and to early American educational traditions. Harvard College, Massachusetts, and William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, were the two oldest colleges in America. Their early buildings were rendered in the Georgian style.

During World War II, the school had its own "victory garden," farmed by the boys; the girls canned vegetables. In 1942, the present Richard Montgomery High School was built near Park Street, on property which once belonged to the fair. Today, Park Street School is no longer used as a school. It is owned by Montgomery County.

Description (continued) : Richard Montgomery and Park Street Schools
Site Plan showing facilities and outlines of earliest buildings.

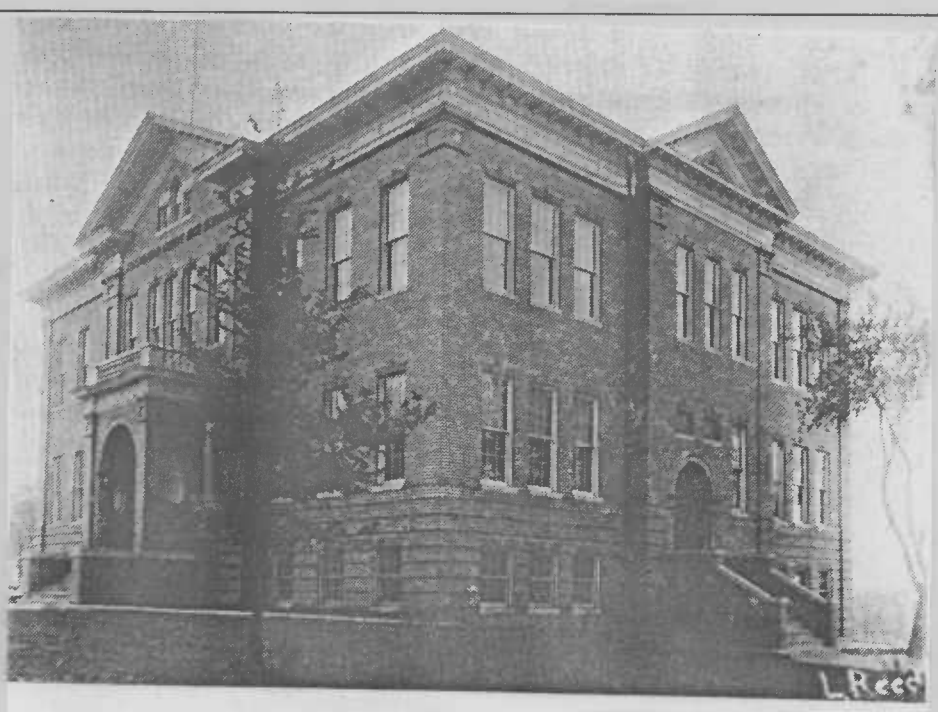


Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School
1879 Hopkins Atlas of Montgomery County, Maryland

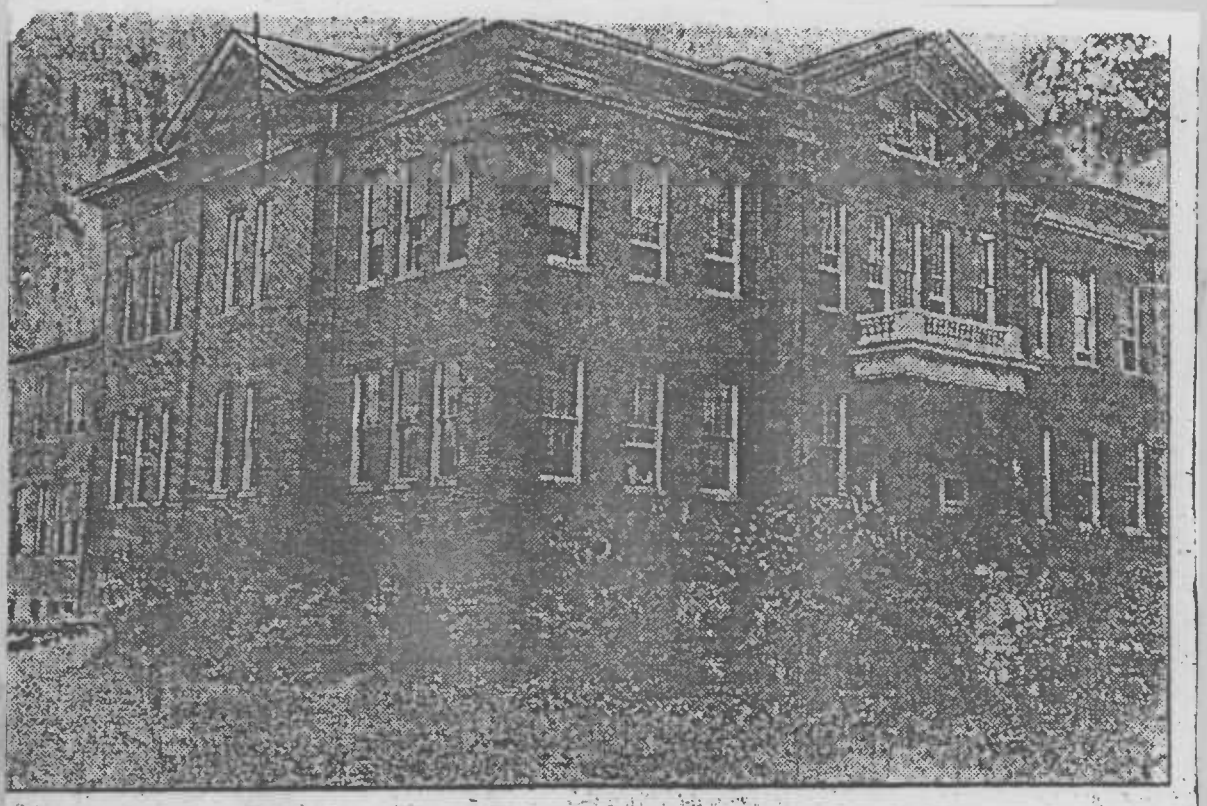


Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School
Photographs of 1905-1940 Richard Montgomery High School

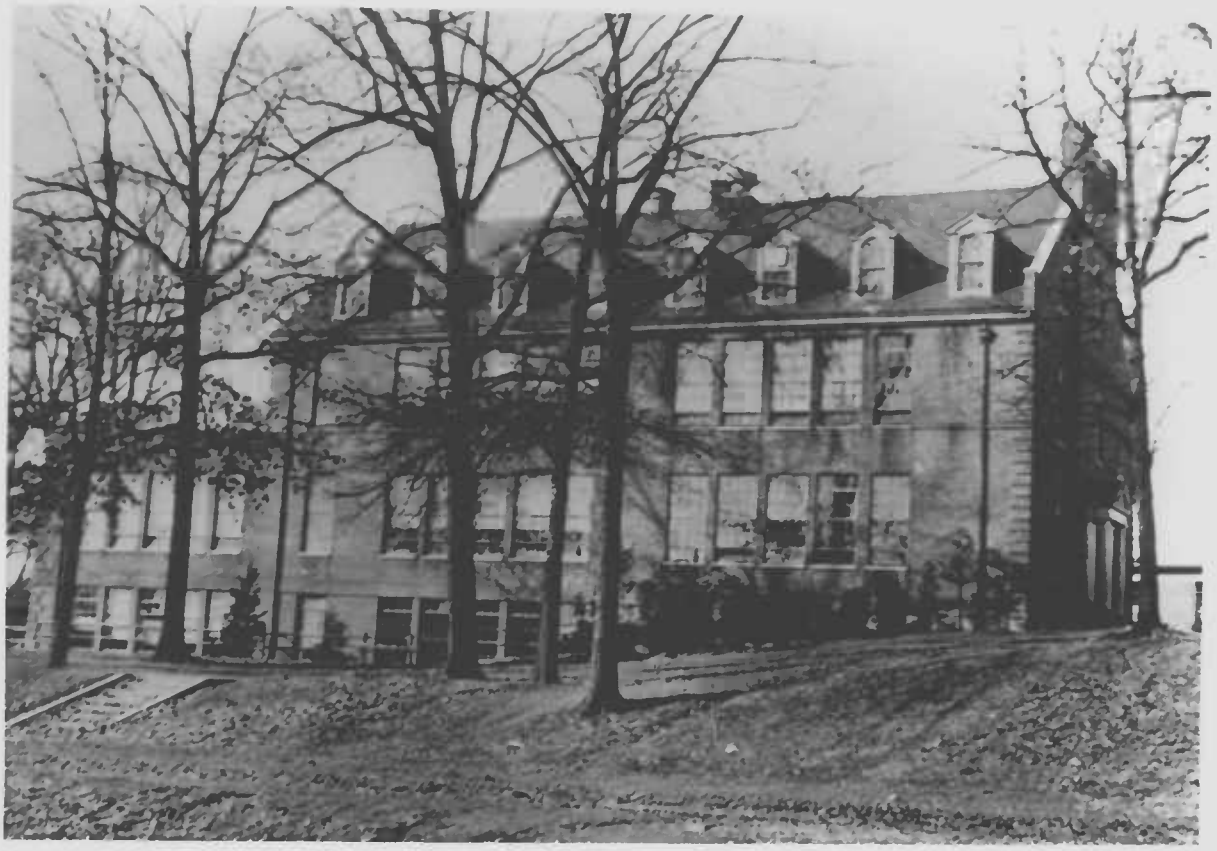


Montgomery County High School, circa 1906



MONTGOMERY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. Sunday Star 6/5/21

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School
Photograph of Park Street School, 1934. Courtesy Montgomery County Historical Society.



1982

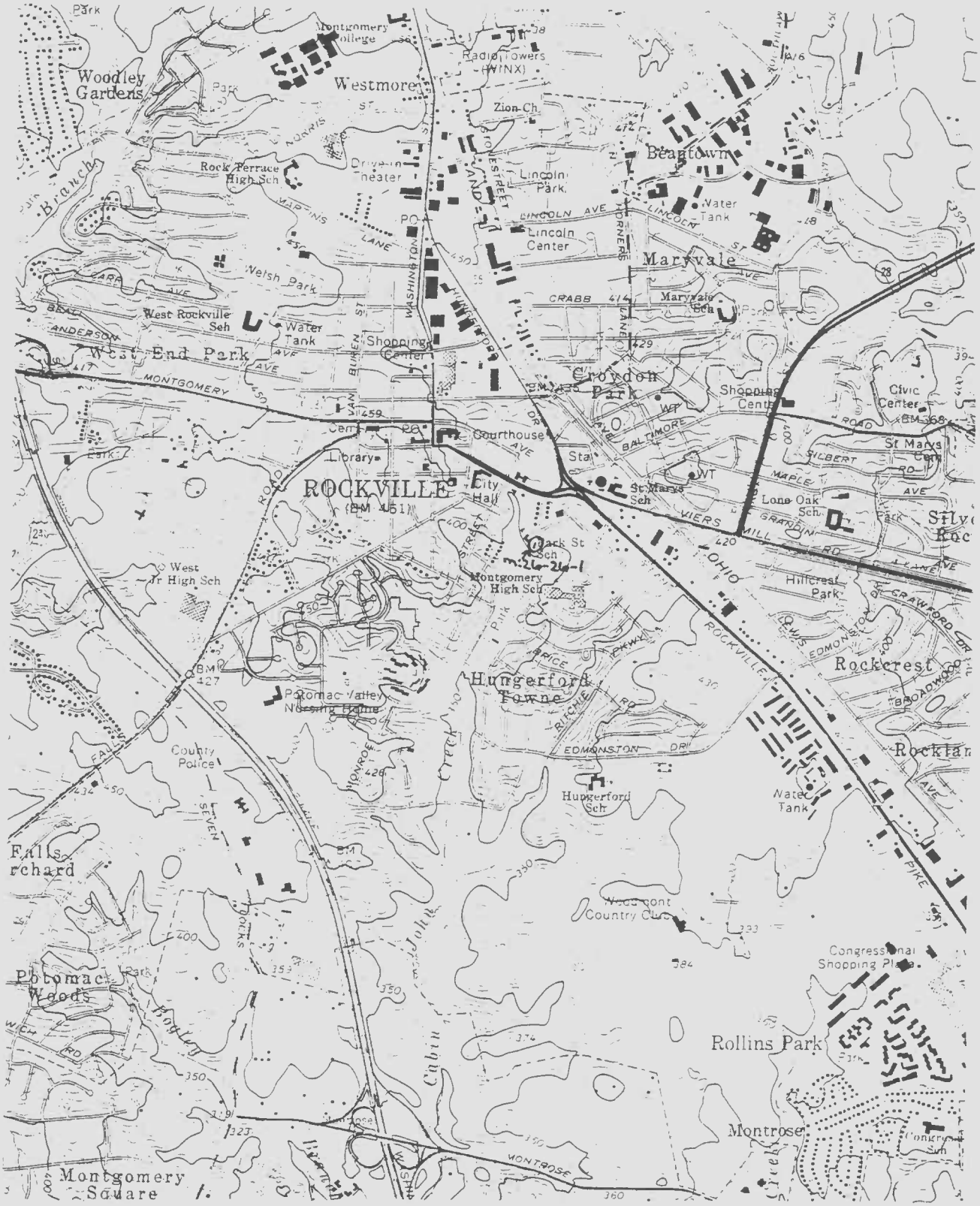
City of Rockville

scale: 1" = 600'

M:26/26/1
Park Street Elemetary School
401 Fleet Street

M:26/26/2
Richard Montgomery High School
250 Richard Montgomery Drive

Survey No.	M: 26-26-1
Resource Name	Park Street Elementary School
Town/County	Rockville/Montgomery County
Quad Map	Rockville, MD



1. m: 26-26-1
2. Park Street Elementary School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 11/8/1999
6. MD SHPO
7. Main, North, elevation showing western addition on the right.
8. 1 of 4

1. M:26-26-1
2. Park Street Elementary School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 12/9/99
6. MD SHPO
7. Main, North facade taken from the east. Shows eastern addition
8. 2 of 4

1. M: 26-26-1
2. Park Street Elementary School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 11/8/99
6. MD SHPO
7. East facade, taken facing northwest along facade
8. 3 of 4

1. m 26-26-1
2. Park Street Elementary School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 11/8/99
6. MD SHPO
7. West Elevation, taken facing northeast
8. 4 of 4

date: 6/1987 elevation: E
M:26/26/1
Park Street Elementary School
401 Fleet Street
Rockville, Md. 20852
Richard Andrews

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