

Locational Atlas for Historic Properties in Montgomery County, nor was it determined eligible for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Rockville.

The 1942 construction of the Richard Montgomery High School followed a fire in March 1940 that destroyed most of the existing high school on Monroe Street. Students attended classes at private and neighboring public schools while the local Board of Education secured land adjacent to the Park Street Elementary School and constructed a new high school. Considering the events surrounding the school's construction and subsequent history, the Richard Montgomery High School is not associated with significant events. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion A. Howard Cutler, principal designer of Montgomery County public schools, and Rhee Burket designed the new high school, and the Morrison Brothers constructed the 23-room building. None of these designers or builders, nor any known person associated with the school exhibits significance 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 Richard Montgomery High School does embody distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. As noted in the historic context, the school's Modernistic and International Style design represents both local and national architectural trends. The school's design represents a departure from the traditional Georgian architecture of previous Montgomery County schools and followed a national shift from classical architecture. While these characteristics support significance under Criterion C, the school is not eligible for the National Register because modern additions and alterations have significantly compromised the structure's design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Though the property does possess the aspects of location and association, it does not retain integrity. In addition to this loss of integrity, other existing schools in Montgomery County from the same period, particularly the Glenmont Elementary School, serve as better examples of the modern, streamline architectural style. 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.

**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)
 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
 Modern Period A.D. 1930- Present
 Unknown Prehistoric
 Unknown Historic

IV. Historic Period Themes:

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

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building
 Historic environment: Suburban
 Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Education-School

 Known Design Source: Cutler and Burket

Site: M:26/26/1

Park Street Elementary School

Built: 1934-35

401 Fleet Street

Architect: Cutter
and Burket

Site: M:26/26/2

Richard Montgomery High School

Built: 1942

250 Richard Montgomery Drive

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.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/26/2

MAGI No.

DOE yes noNR eligible yes no
contrib. element in H.D.

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

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

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 250 Richard Montgomery Drive / 401 Fleet Street not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 1)

3. Classification

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

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

name Montgomery County Board of Educationstreet & 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&472street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse Park 814/245city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Nonedate federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> 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)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 7 PAGE 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 multi-light 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

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SECTION 7 PAGE 2

Description (continued) : Richard Montgomery and Park Street Schools

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 undoubtedly 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, especially 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.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 7 PAGE 5

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:26/26/2

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

Earlier buildings: 1860, 1876, 1904-05

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

check: Applicable Criteria: Richard Montgomery 1942 (B) (RMHS) Morrison Brothers
and/or (A) (RMHS) Cutter & Burket

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 8 PAGE 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 usually 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 Vielt 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 Montgomery 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 school 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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 8 PAGE 2

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.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 8 PAGE 3

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 8 PAGE 4

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 property 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 cabinet-making. 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.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 8 PAGE 5

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.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

M: 26-26-2

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Richard Montgomery High School**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **250 Richard Montgomery Avenue**

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

8th

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Board of Education
Montgomery County Public Schools**

Telephone #: **279-3617**

STREET & NUMBER

850 Hungerford Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

MD

STATE, zip code
20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

Liber #: **560**
Folio #: **472 476**

STREET & NUMBER

51 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor

CITY, TOWN

Rockville, MD 20850

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<i>interior</i>			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Richard Montgomery has grown since its first major building was erected in the early 1940s. Modern building campaigns to the front and side of the school obstruct the view of older sections. The oldest buildings of the complex can best be seen from the rear near Mount Vernon Drive.

The oldest school is a large two-story academic building with basement. This building has a modern look characteristic of the more severe residual "Deco" design of the 1940s and the minimalism of the International Style. It is constructed of brick and cinderblocks with concrete and metal. This L-plan (with one 64'5" wide X 154'4" long arm and one 64' wide X 143' long --- these figures are based on blueprints of the school from 1951) has a boxy, machine-like appearance with flat brick walls (in some places unbroken by windows, etc.); a smooth, uninterrupted flat roofline (with flat elevated corner roof); large horizontally grouped windows; and no traditional elements. The brick walls, light-hued stone courses and coping, strongly asserted corners and entrances, and alternating recessed and projecting horizontal brick striations between windows provide visual texture --- the building's principal ornamentation. Reminiscent of Art Deco architecture, the large projecting corner pavilion asserted the set-back entry facade. The most outstanding feature (now destroyed) was the recessed crisply delineated main entrance. Recalling the new wave of European modernism than influencing American architecture, the main entrance was positioned asymmetrically, close to the projecting corner block. A concrete walk connected the main entry to the then existing circular drive leading to the public road).

The following provides information on the expenditures which resulted in the oldest buildings of the school.

1942	building:	\$565,836
	land:	29,017
	work site:	4,905
1943	first addition:	22,829

NOTE: The original blueprints for the oldest building of Richard Montgomery High School can not be found. Renderings by Rhees Burket dated 1951 do exist.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SIGNIFICANCE

M:26-26-2

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1942

BUILDER/ARCHITECT attributed to Rhees Burket

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The oldest building of Richard Montgomery High School is an important landmark in the history of Montgomery County and its public schools. Most significantly, it reveals the new direction of American architecture (and Montgomery County architecture) during the 1940s. During this period, American architecture turned toward the factory or engineering aesthetic inspired by Bauhaus-inspired modernism and faith in technology.

In style, Richard Montgomery represents a departure from the traditional architectural image of 1930s Montgomery County schools. During the 1930s, Montgomery County's public schools were usually designed along classical lines, frequently in the Georgian style. This paralleled the persistence of classicism in American architecture during the first half of the 20th century. During the 1920s and 1930s, traditionalism came head to head with modernism. World War II brought a complete end to residual aspects of the American Renaissance (late 19th and early 20th century), a period which had encouraged a respect for the past and the use of classical architecture.

This structure shows the influence of the severe "Deco" style of the 1940s, which was affected by the rising tide of the International Style and the Streamline Moderne (both of which were on the cutting edge of architectural design during the 1930s). Its asymmetrical balance, flat roof, planar treatment of wall and glazed surfaces, lack of extraneous elements, and no reference to traditional rules of architecture reveal the influence of European Modernism, the International Style. The

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M.26-26-2

Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;
Montgomery County Historical Society, School Files;
Central Records, Montgomery County Schools;
See K. Alexis' manuscript (1988) on the architectural history
of Montgomery County's Public Schools, 1900-46 (Montgomery
Historic Preservation Commission & Maryland Historic Trust)
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY total area of entire campus with Park Street School (across the playing field) is approximately 31.7 acres;
Richard Montgomery's grounds are approximately 24 acres.

19.74A. (Assessment Office)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Richard Montgomery Avenue, Mount Vernon Place, Monroe Street,
Fleet Street and Jefferson Street;

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., ART & ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE **JUNE 1988**

STREET & NUMBER **2449 Villanova Drive** TELEPHONE **280-1107**

CITY OR TOWN **Vienna** STATE **Virginia 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 (CONTINUED)

International Style stressed an engineering aesthetic, and called for "functionalism," "architecture as volume," "avoidance of applied decoration." All of this makes Richard Montgomery more closely resemble a conventional early 20th century factory than a traditional school. In effect, this academic edifice shows the complete acceptance of a style without historical associations for a traditional building-type: the school. In general, the extreme austerity of this building (especially for a school building) was probably also due to economic factors and shortages of building materials, etc. during the war years.

The use of Art Deco elements was by no means progressive since the style had developed during the 1920s. However, it was in keeping with the persistence of the general interest in Art Deco inspired design. Interestingly, local fascination for this style was probably at an all time high. Paul Cret's Bethesda Naval Hospital, an Art Deco skyscraper, was erected between 1939 and 1941. The school's horizontal striations of recessed brick patterns, which give the building a horizontal directional force, relate to the streamlining of the 1930s (a style associated with efficiency, speed and technology) and to the horizontal emphasis of much Bauhaus-inspired design.

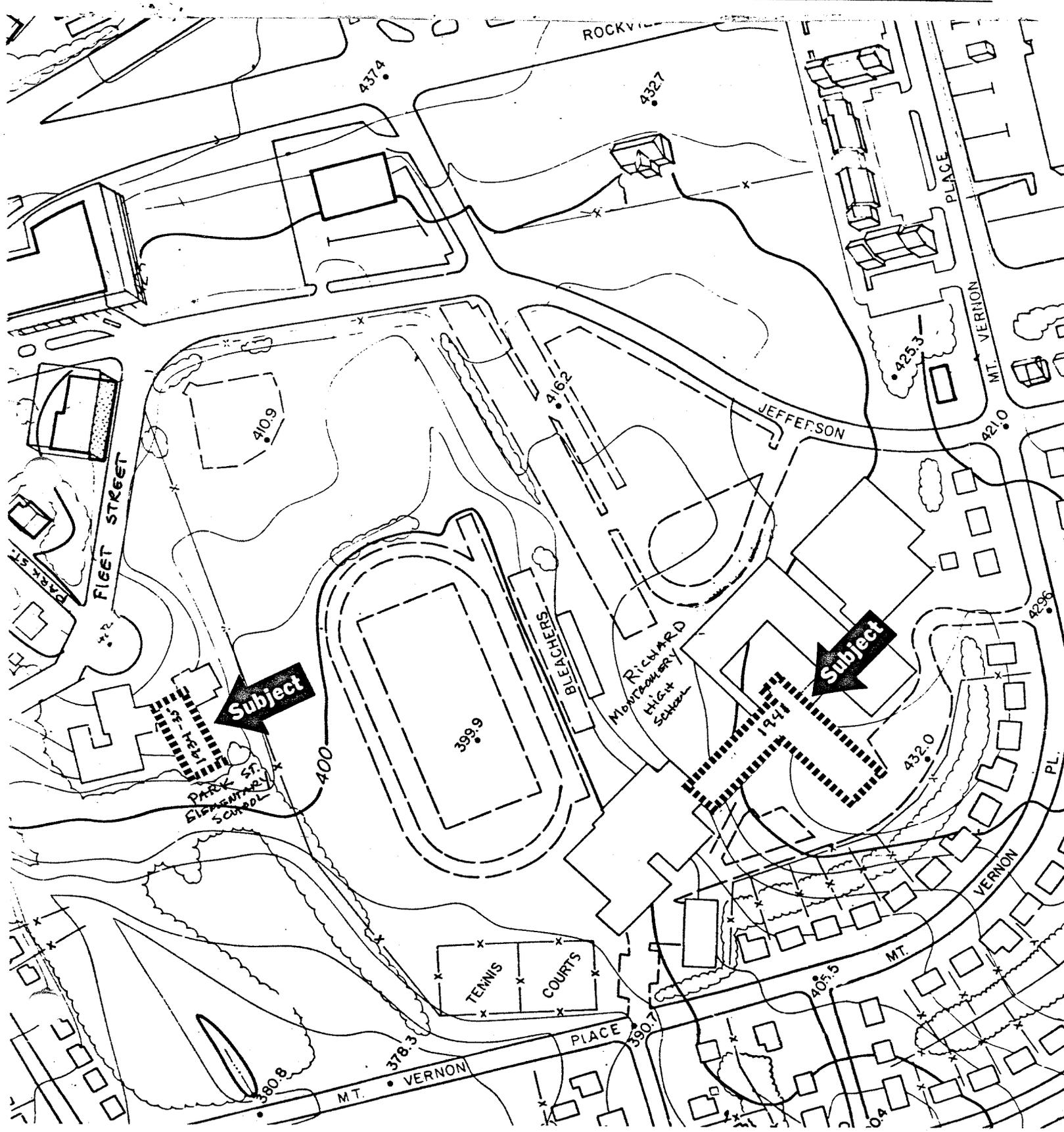
This school was also a result of the dramatic population growth in the Washington area during World War II. In particular, there was a great increase in the number of school children in Montgomery County. Between 1920 and 1945 the number of students attending public school rose from 6,195 to 17,310. During the same period, the county's expenditures on schools dramatically increased, reaching \$2,437,770.83 in 1945.¹

Rockville had long been a center of education in the county. In 1941, the old Richard Montgomery High School was almost completely consumed by fire. Its students had to be bussed to other area schools (Kensington, Chevy Chase, Bethesda-Chevy Chase) and churches until the new Richard Montgomery High School was completed. In November of 1942, there was a grand march of 225 students from the old (destroyed school) to the new Richard Montgomery High School. The site of the new school, located across the playing field from Park Street School (1937), was the old Fair Grounds of Rockville. The former entrance to the fair grounds became the location of the new street entrance of the school.

¹ E. Guy Jewell, From One Room to Open Space: A History of Montgomery County Schools From 1732 to 1965, Rockville, Maryland: 1976, 320-1.

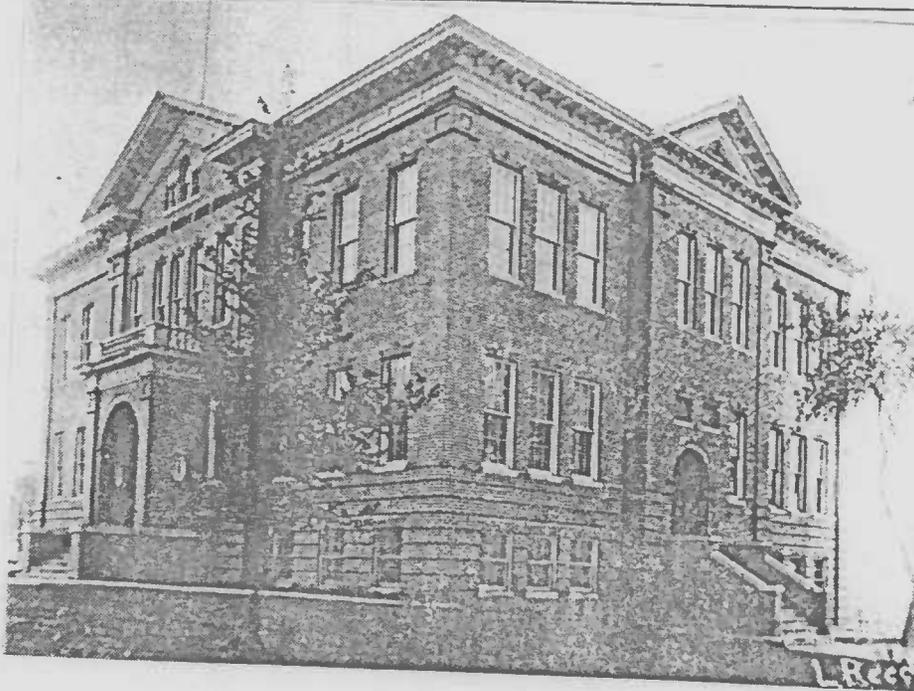
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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



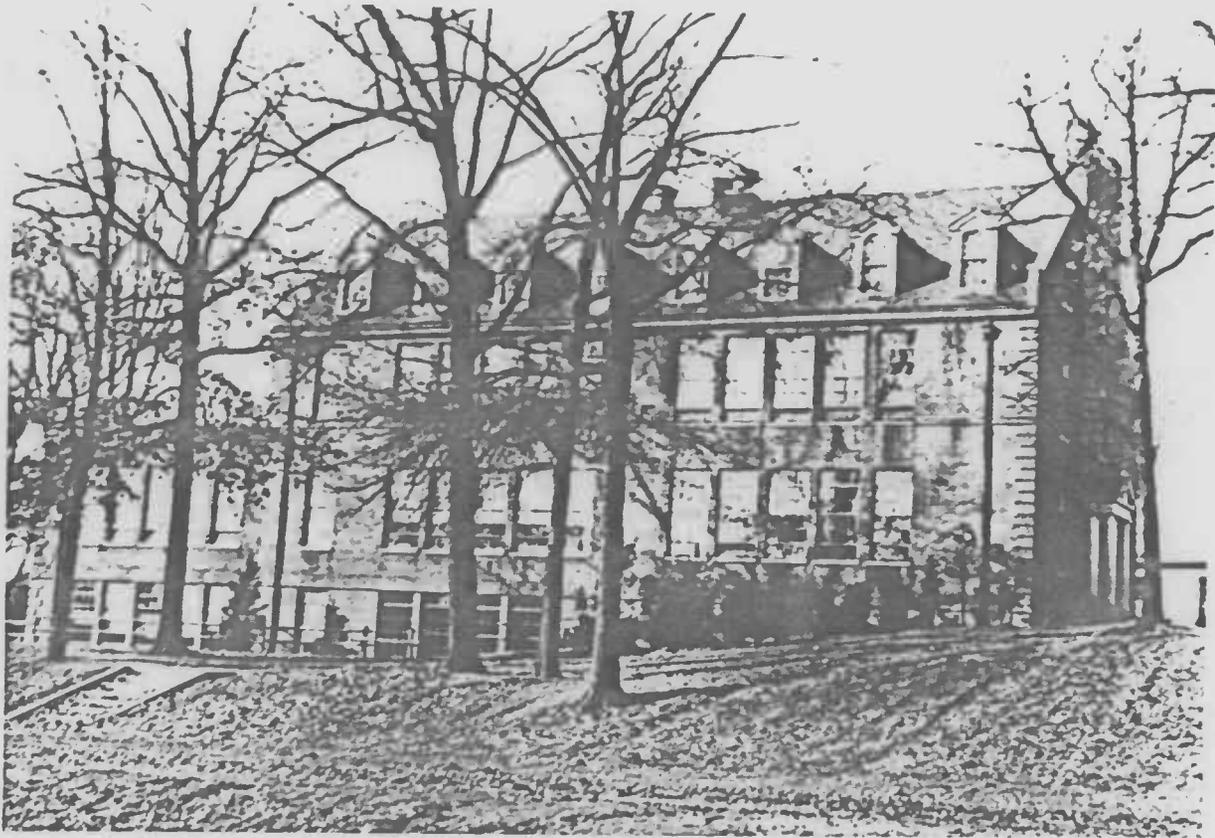
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday Star 6/5/21

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SECTION 8 PAGE 7

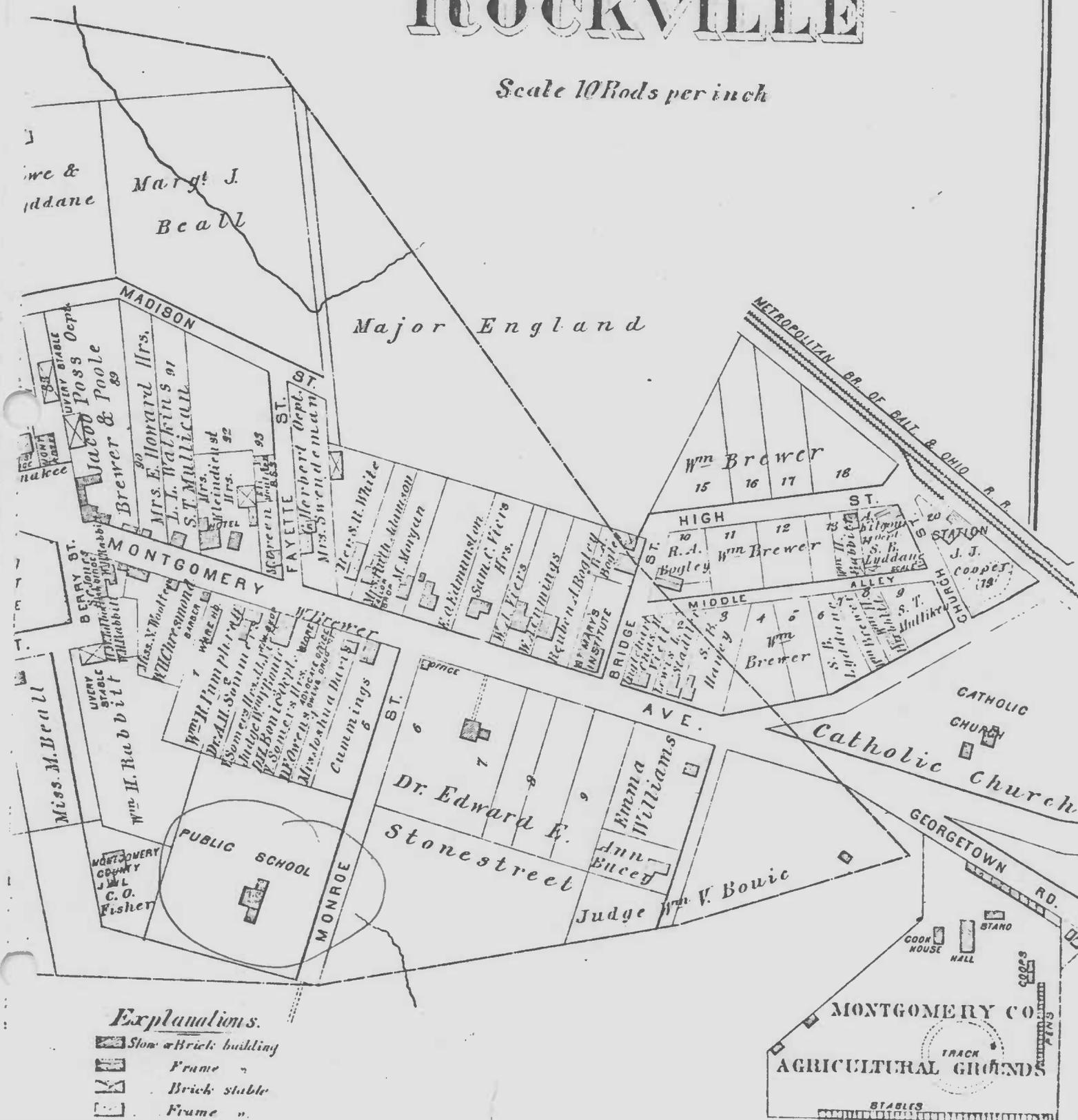
Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Richard Montgomery High School and Park Street School
Photograph of Park Street School, 1934. Courtesy Montgomery
County Historical Society.



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

ROCKVILLE

Scale 10 Rods per inch



1982

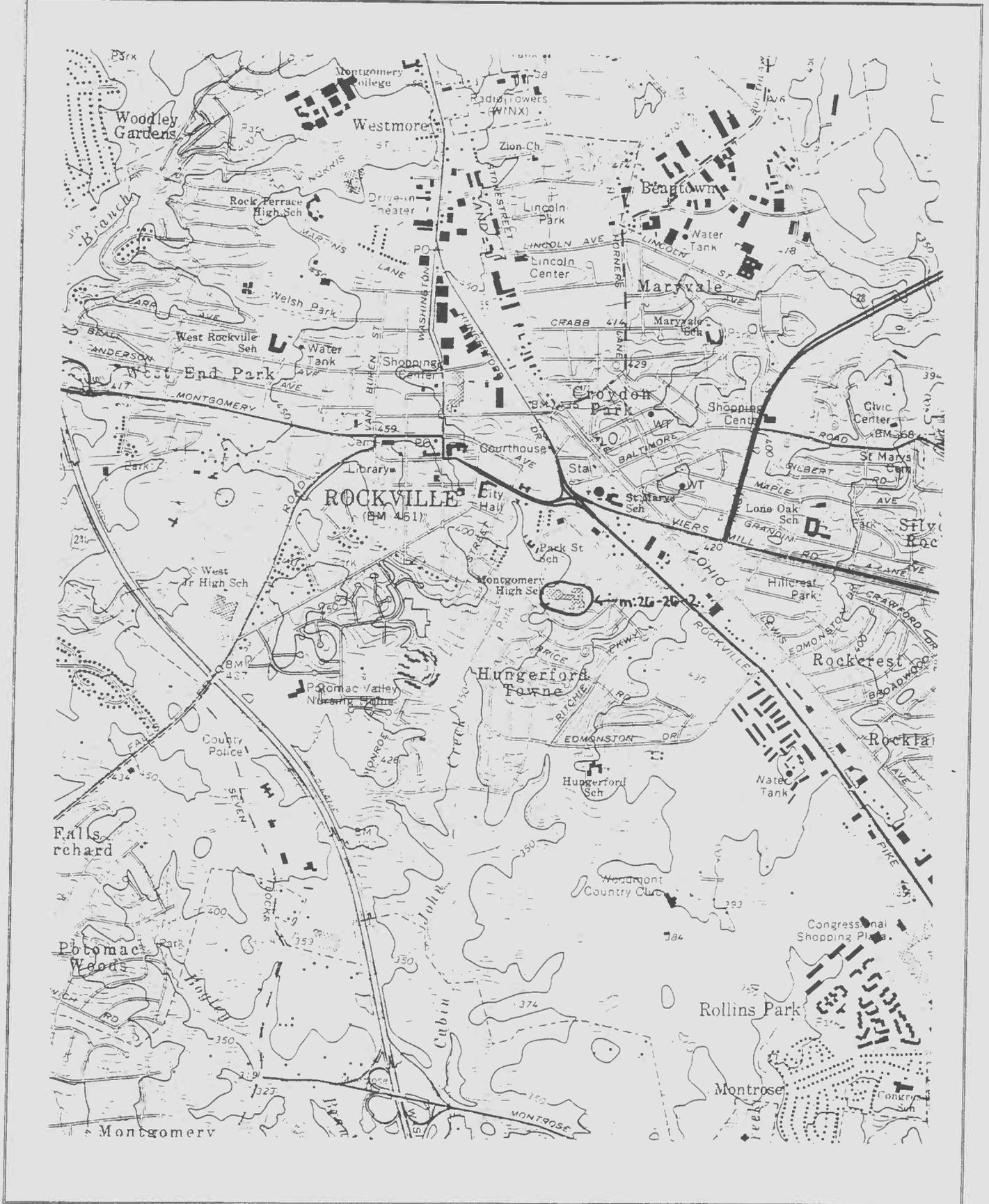
City of Rockville scale: 1" = 60'

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

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



Survey No. M: 26-26-2
Resource Name Richard Montgomery High School
Town/County Rockville/Montgomery County
Quad Map Rockville, MD





1. m' 26-26-2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 11/8/99
6. MD SHPO
7. Main or East Facade of school, taken from
Parking lot facing west Original section at TL
for right
8. 1 of 8



RESERVED
PARKING

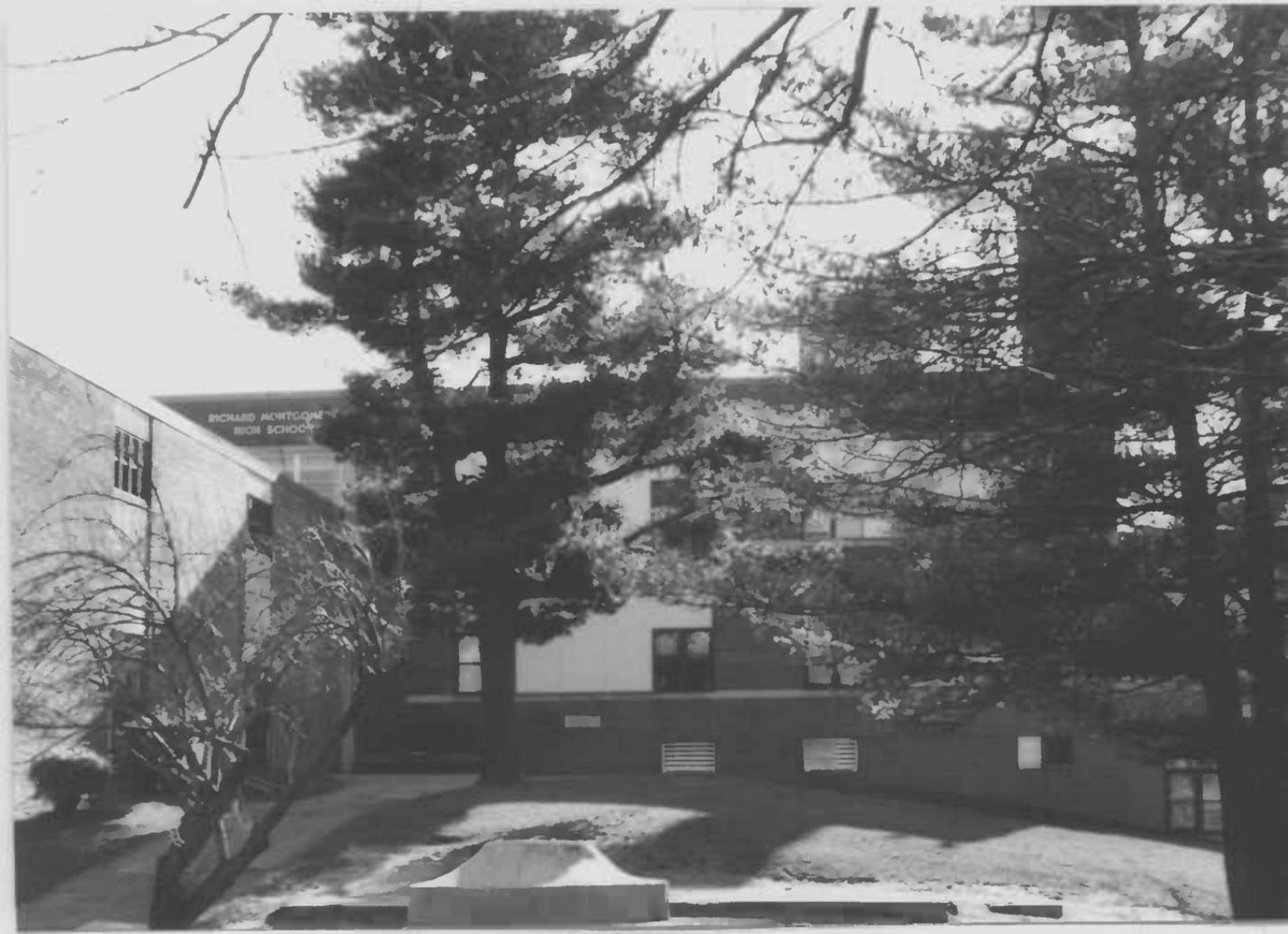


RESERVED
PARKING



RICHARD MONTGOMERY
HIGH SCHOOL

1. m: 26-26-2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 12/9/99
6. MD SHPO
7. Detail - main or East elevation for south portion
modern addition
8. 2 of 3

A black and white photograph of a school courtyard. The building in the background has a sign that reads "RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL". The courtyard is filled with large trees, and there are some low concrete structures in the foreground. The lighting creates strong shadows on the ground.

RICHARD MONTGOMERY
HIGH SCHOOL

1. No. 26-26-2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 12/9/99
6. MD SHPO
7. Detail - main or most elevation - southern portion of original structure at right with modern addition in front of it blocking the original entrance under "Richard Montgomery High School"
8. 3 of 8



1. ml: 26-26-2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 12/9/99
6. MD SHPO
7. Detail - masonry east facade, original structure with modern gurn additions to the right.
8. H of B



1. m: 26-26-2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 12/9/99
6. MD SHPO
7. South elevation of original structure (at rear of photo)
with modern addition in front of it.
8. 5 of 8



1. m: 26-26.2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 12/9/99
6. MD SHPO
7. West elevation, northern portion, original structure at
The right of the image.
8. 6 of 8



1. m: 26-26-2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 12/9/99
6. MD SHPO
7. West or rear elevation of original structure
8. 7 of 8



1. mi. 26-26-2
2. Richard Montgomery High School
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Kelly Steele
5. 11/8/99
6. MD SHPO
7. rear of west elevation of original structure - southern portion
8. 8 of 8



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/26 /2
R. Montgomery HS
250 R. Mont. Dr.
Rockville, Md. 20852
Richard Andrews

Elevation

12863406



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

date:6/1987 elevation: E
M:26/26/2

R. Montgomery HS
250 R. Mont. Dr.
Rockville, Md. 20852
Richard Andrews

SE elevation

12863404