

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
 MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: St. Mary's College Survey Number: SM - 37

Project: Kent Hall Renovation Agency: St. Mary's College

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name Bill Pencek, Beth Cole Date 3/23/92

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

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

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

St. Mary's College is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its historical importance in the state's approach to meeting the demands for higher education and in how the state early on decided to commemorate its founding. Established by the legislature in 1840 as St. Mary's Female Seminary, St. Mary's College is the first state owned institution for higher education in Maryland, preceding other such institutions by about 30 years. It was also established as a memorial to the founding of the colony and was charged with collecting and preserving meaningful archives and artifacts related to the early colony. The historic core of the campus, the area to the west of State Route 5, contains a number of buildings which reflect the struggles this institution survived in its quest to grow and develop into the four year institution it now is. Of particular significance is Calvert Hall, built in the 1840s as the first campus building and extensively rebuilt and enlarged following a fire in 1924. This building is a symbol of St. Mary's College as seen in the institution's seal featuring the front portico of the building.

Also of significance are St. Mary's Hall, built in 1907-1908 as the music hall; Alumni Hall which was dedicated in 1924 and almost immediately turned over to the college by the alumni association for use as student dormitory because of the fire at Calvert Hall; and Kent Hall, dedicated in 1941, which is described in the school's history as the state's centennial present to the college. None of these buildings are of individual distinction for National Register eligibility but together relate the history and development of the school from the beginning to about 1950 when St. Mary's College began a rapid expansion of its facilities in its drive to become a four year institution. This expansion included the development of a north campus across Route 5. For purposes of National Register eligibility, the historic area is roughly bound by the St. Mary's River, Trinity Episcopal Church grounds, and a line along Route 584 intended to include college property. Precise boundaries require more research into campus development.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Monument School of the People,
Frederick J. Fauz, 1990

Prepared by: Frederick J. Fauz

Beth Cole, Bill Pencek *EJCde* April 13, 1992
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
A. Andrews 22 April 92
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

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:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- 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 Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

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

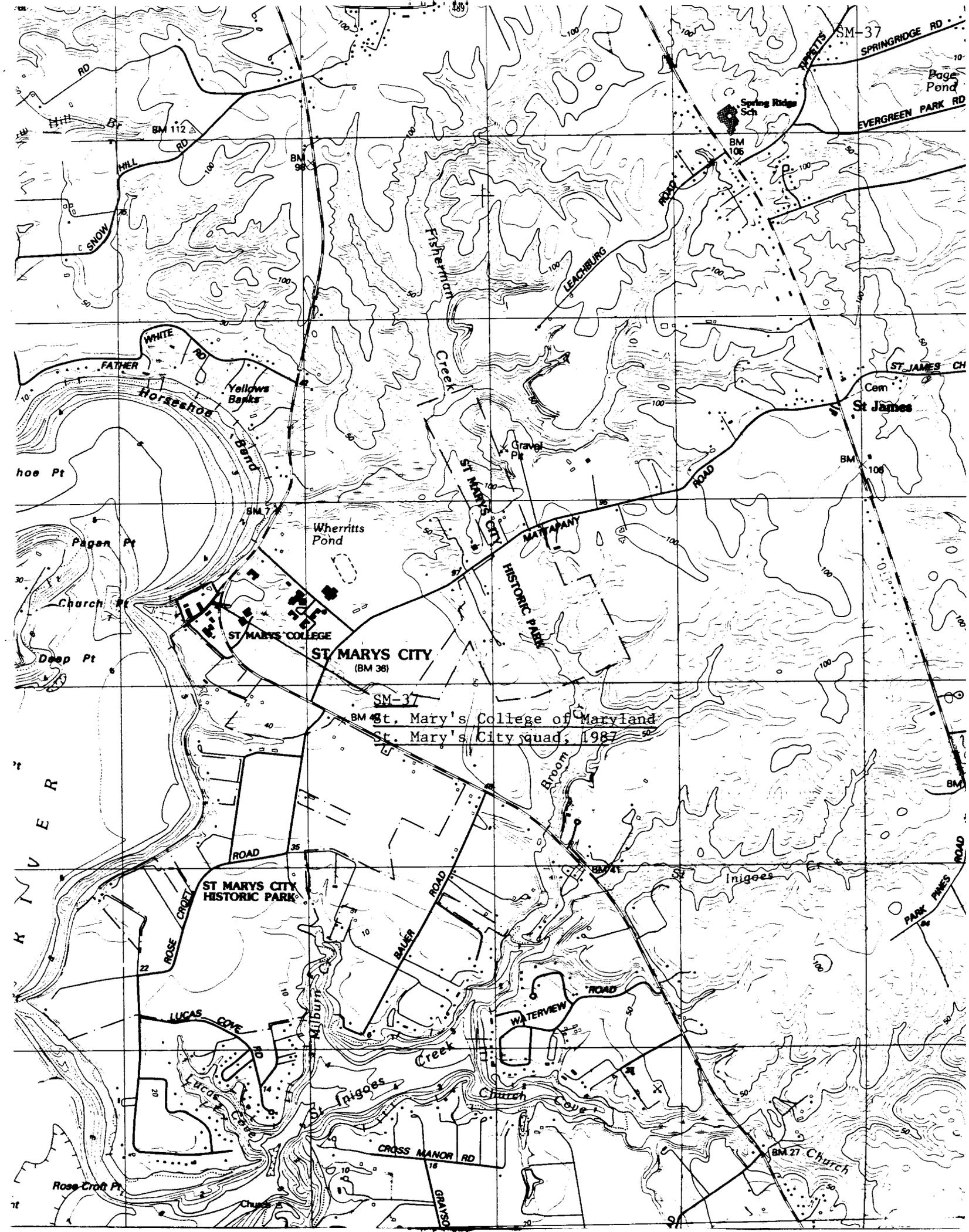
V. Resource Type:

Category: district

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): college

Known Design Source: unknown



SM-37
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's City squad, 1987

S' M -37

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

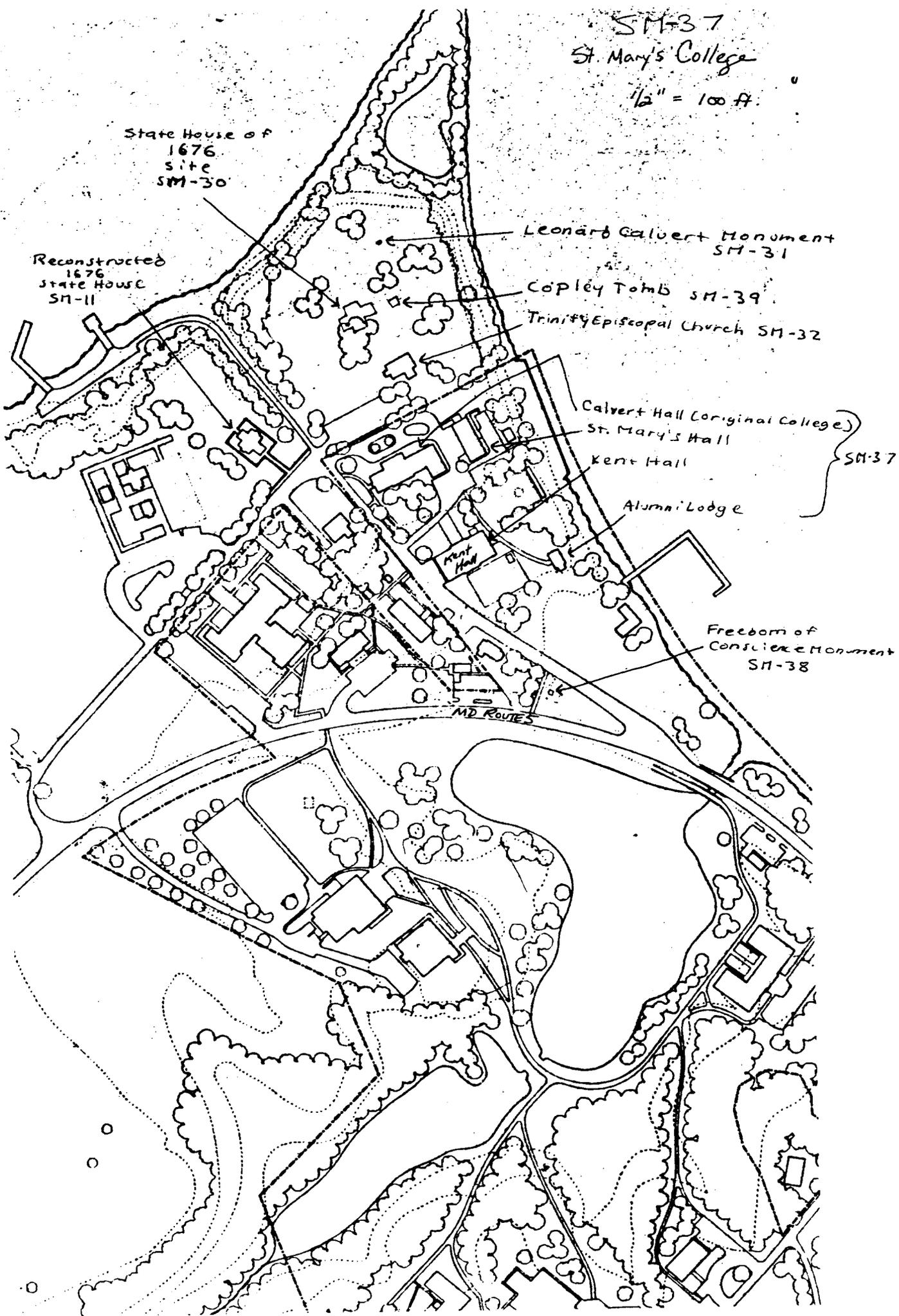
founded 1839

St. Mary's City

A small but rapidly expanding college complex. ~~the~~ St. Mary's College of Maryland was founded in 1839 as the result of an act of ~~legislation by~~ the Maryland General Assembly. Originally a female seminary, it is now a four-year, co-educational, liberal arts college.

SM-37
St. Mary's College

1/2" = 100 ft.



State House of 1676 site SM-30

Reconstructed 1676 State House SM-11

Leonard Calvert Monument SM-31

Copley Tomb SM-39

Trinity Episcopal Church SM-32

Calvert Hall (Original College)

St. Mary's Hall

Kent Hall

Alumni Lodge

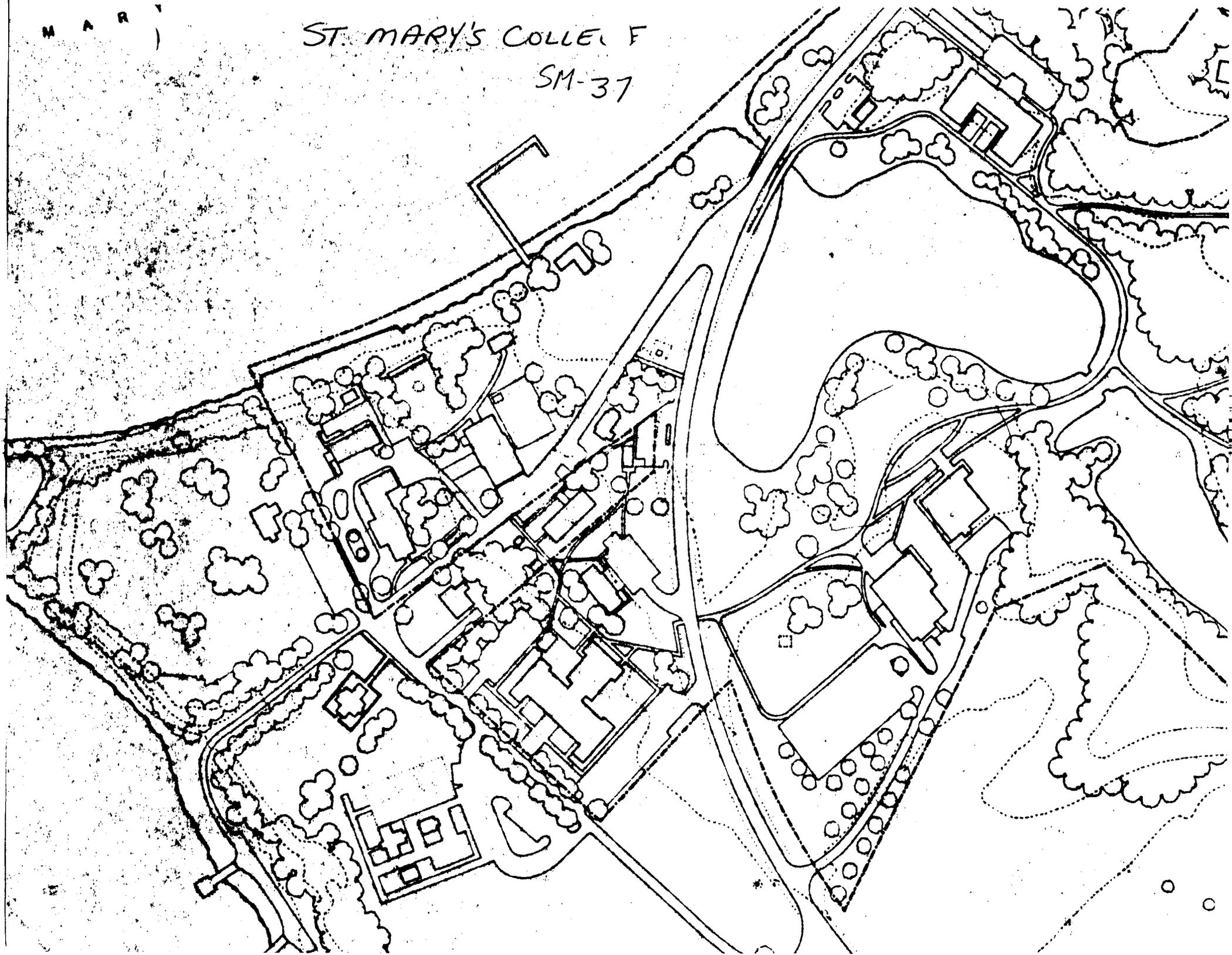
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Freeborn of Conscience Monument SM-38

MD ROUTES

M A R Y)
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

SM-37



Department of Public Improvements

Wigley, Hon. Henry C.

1950 Maryland Builds: Report of the Department of Public Improvements of the State of Maryland for the period July 1, 1947 to December 31, 1949. Baltimore, Maryland.

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MARYLAND BUILDS

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY JUNIOR COLLEGE**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**R. BASCOM BROWN, JR., *Chairman*MISS MAY RUSSELL, *President*

This institution was chartered in 1839, under the name of St. Mary's Female Seminary, as a monument to commemorate the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of Maryland. It operates as a four-year junior college, the curriculum covering the last two years of high school and the first two years of college work. In 1949 the name of the institution was changed to St. Mary's Seminary Junior College. At present, it has a student population of 103, with 76 living at the school, while the normal housing capacity is 76. The school is located at St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County, on State Highway No. 5. On the 7 acres of gently rolling terrain are located—4 buildings for students, employees and administration, and 2 buildings for training and recreational purposes, and 6 buildings for utilities and miscellaneous purposes, making a total of 12. Of this number, 2 are of fire-resistant construction, 4 of masonry with wood floor systems, and 6 of wood or other non-fire-resistant construction. The institution has its own source of water supply, and a sewage treatment plant. Electric power is purchased from an outside source, while heat is furnished from several small heating plants.

New construction and improvements in the amount of \$37,000 were authorized under the General Construction Loan of 1949, in addition to \$36,000 provided by the General Construction Loan of 1947. Post-War funds have added \$48,110, and made it possible to perform some additional construction.

Construction projects at the school include:

(1) Construction of bulkhead along the St. Mary's River to protect the property from shore erosion. This work was completed through the assistance of the State Roads Commission in 1947. Studies are underway by the Department of Public Improvements to prevent additional shore erosion, although the further use of bulkheads may not be the proper solution to this problem.

(2) A new heating plant has been installed in the demonstration cottage; and the sewage plant's chlorination system has been replaced.

(3) Final plans are nearing completion and bids will be received early in February for a faculty cottage which will include 4 apartments and 4 double rooms, a laundry and other necessary facilities for the faculty. This structure is necessary since housing is at a premium in this remotely located institution.

(4) Negotiations are nearly complete for the purchase of 3.32 acres of additional land in order that the school may have a more adequate athletic field and room for expansion.

Other items of a maintenance nature, including the waterproofing of one of the brick walls, were accomplished during 1948 and 1949.

See page 206 for complete schedule of construction completed and in progress.

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Cumberland A
Denton Armory
Easton Armory
Elkton Armory
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Frederick Arm
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Glen Burnie M
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Hagerstown Ar
*Holabird Arm
Hyattsville Ar
Kensington Ar
†La Plata Moto
Laurel Armory
Leonardtown M
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Salisbury Arm
Silver Spring A
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ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
Baltimore, Maryland

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DESCRIPTION	JOB No.	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDS	ARCHITECT & CONTR.	COMPLETION
Heating Revision and Replacements....		\$ 8,591.08 (A)	1945 Post War, Item 221	D.P.I. (Architect) C. T. King, Inc.	May 1949
Furnish and Install Red Quarry Tile over existing Terrazzo and 6" Cove Base.....		1,439.10 (A)	1945 Post War, Item 221	D.P.I. (Architect) Selby & Battersby	January 1949
Miscellaneous Repairs and Deferred Maintenance.....		24,428.82 (A)	1945 Post War, Item 221	D.P.I. (Architect) Various Contractors	January 1949
Repairs and Maintenance.....		525.00 (A)	Solomons Material	Institutional Labor	Non-reimbursable sales
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION.....		\$34,984.00			

MARYLAND BUILDS

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY JUNIOR COLLEGE
St. Mary's City, Maryland

DESCRIPTION	JOB No.	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDS	ARCHITECT & CONTR.	COMPLETION
Lodge Heating System, Hot Water Lines and Sewage Chlorination.....		\$ 6,402.18 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 121 \$ 163.00 Solomons Material 536.25 Other 5,702.93	Sandlass, Wieman (Engrs.) McNew Brothers	December 1948
Bulkhead Construction.....		24,708.31 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 117 10,000.00 1945 Post War, Item 241 11,310.00 1945 Post War, Item 243 3,398.31	State Roads Commission	September 1947
Purchase of Land—3.4 Acres.....		10,000.00 (B)	1949 G C L, Item 128	Jeannette B. Howard (Owner)	Costs thru Dec. 1949
Lighting and Electric Fixtures.....		4,733.25 (B)	1949 G C L, Item 129	D.P.I. (Architect) Simpson Electric Co.	Costs thru Dec. 1949
Topographical Survey—7 Acres.....		595.00 (A)	1949 G C L, Item 128	J. E. Hicks (Engrs.)	October 1949
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION.....		\$36,438.74			
TOTAL COST OF LAND.....		\$10,000.00			

SPRINGFIELD STATE HOSPITAL
Sykesville, Maryland

DESCRIPTION	JOB No.	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDS	ARCHITECT & CONTR.	COMPLETION
Employees' Building (1)..... (Jones—New Women's Building) Capacity—120	47-B-2	\$465,836.38 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 42 \$398,345.71 1945 Post War, Item 114 41,104.64 Solomons Material 26,386.03	Henry Powell Hopkins Mullan Contracting Co.	July 1949
Physicians' Cottages.....	47-B-3	60,642.99 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 42 937.63 1947 G C L, Item 43 48,348.79	Henry Powell Hopkins Henry A. Knott, Inc.	July 1948

REPORT

The addition of townhouses and the new science building have changed driving patterns and parking. We hope this map will help you find your way around campus.

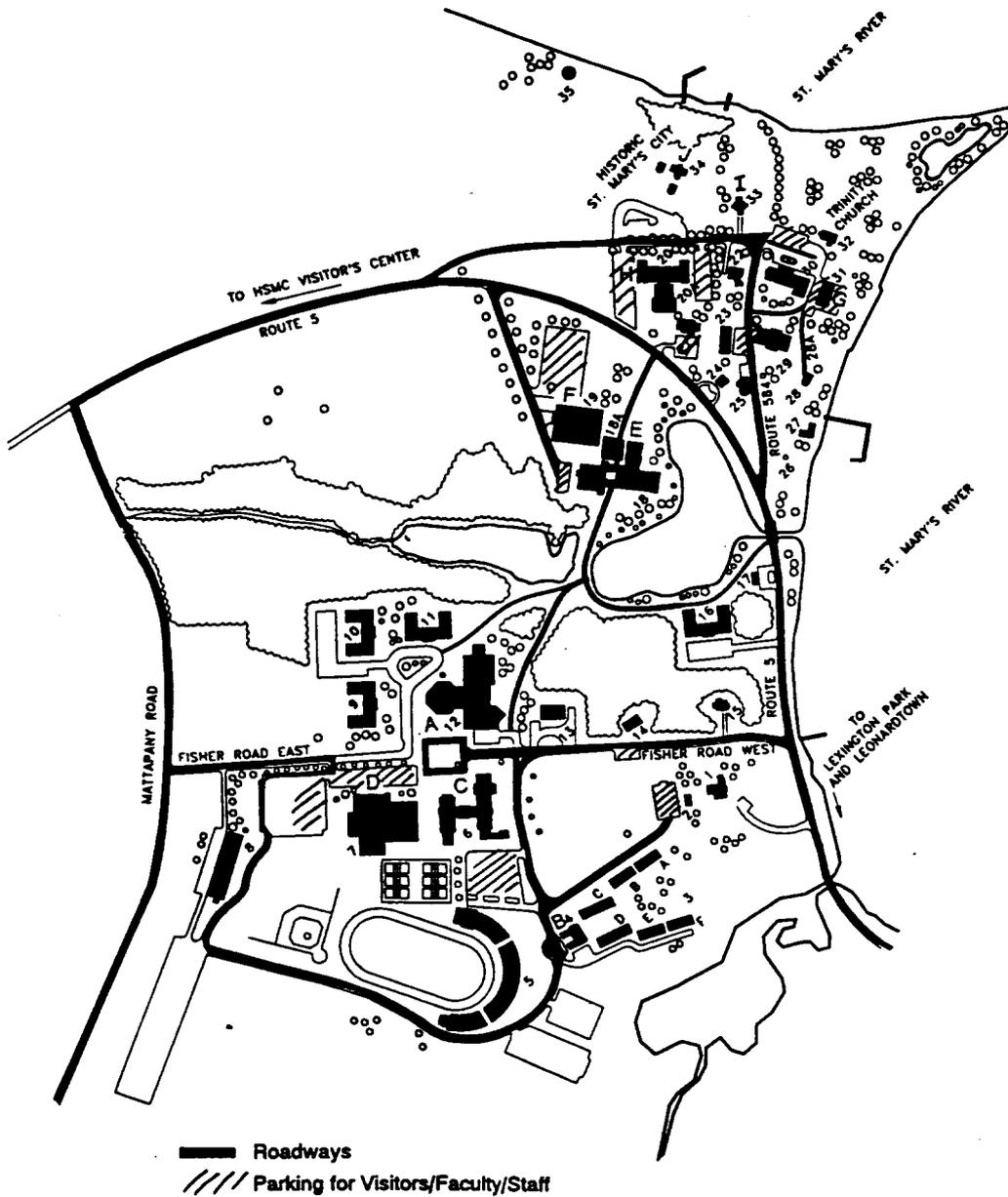
WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE!

Note: This map is oriented as if you were driving TO the campus FROM Lexington Park or Leonardtown. Roadways are marked with solid red. Parking areas for visitors are indicated with lighter red. Regularly visited buildings are highlighted.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND CAMPUS MAP

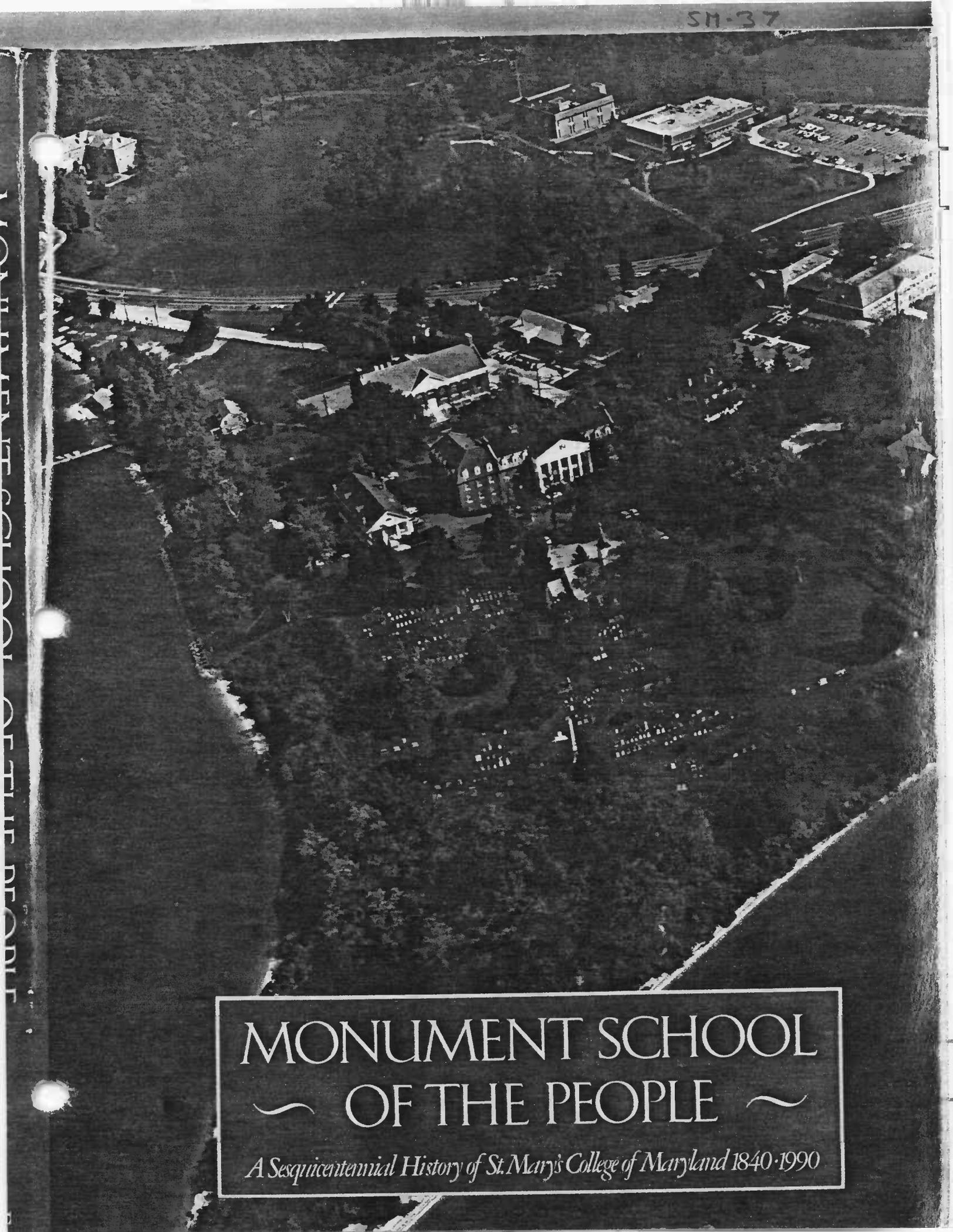
Key to Places Most Commonly Used for Public Events

- A. Montgomery Hall
Fine Arts Center
- B. Daugherty-Palmer Commons
- C. Science Building
- D. Somerset Gymnasium
- E. St. Mary's Library
- F. Charles Hall
- G. St. Mary's Hall
- H. Anne Arundel Hall
- I. State House (HSMC)
- J. Farthing's Ordinary (HSMC)



SM-37

MONUMENT SCHOOL OF THE PEOPLE



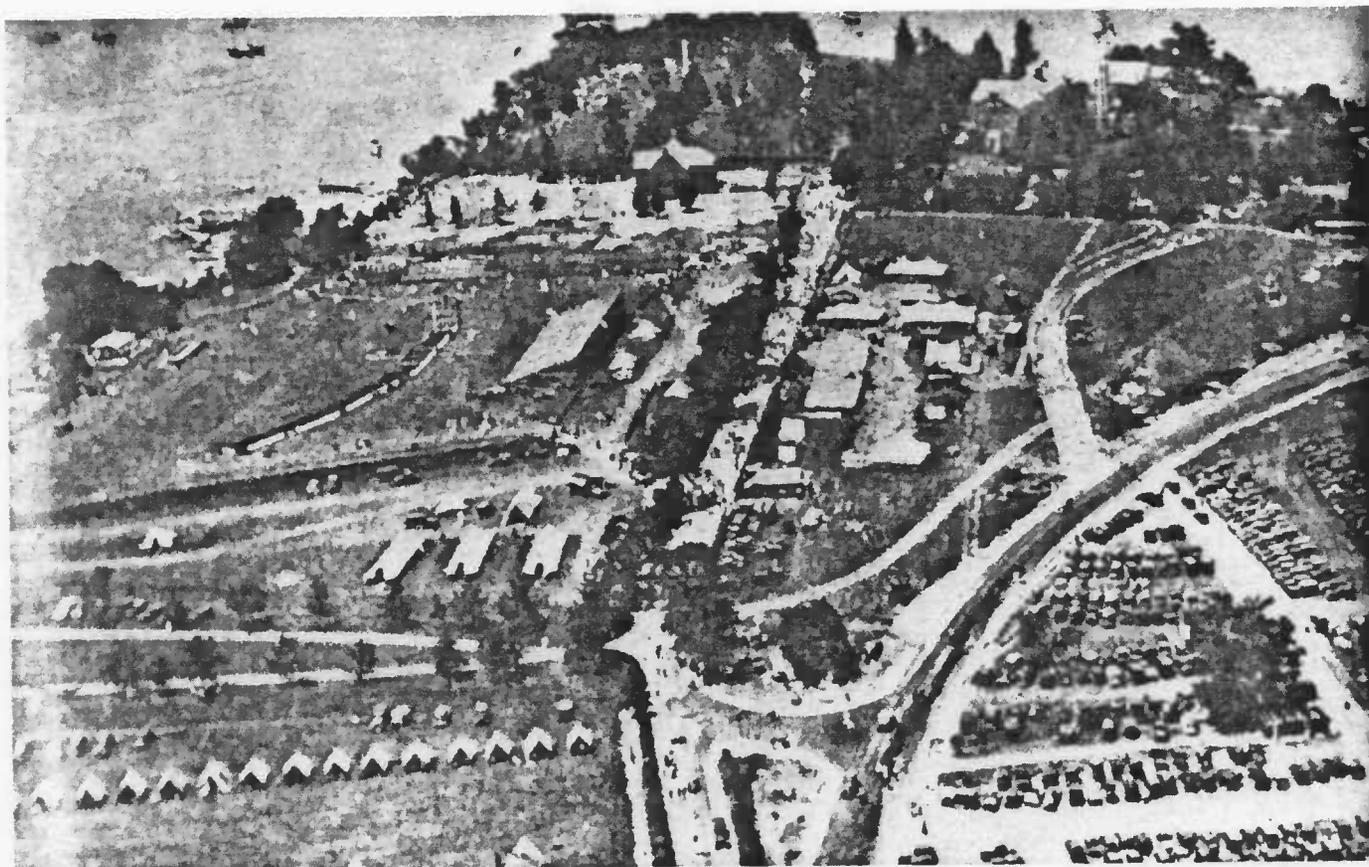
MONUMENT SCHOOL
OF THE PEOPLE

A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary's College of Maryland 1840-1990

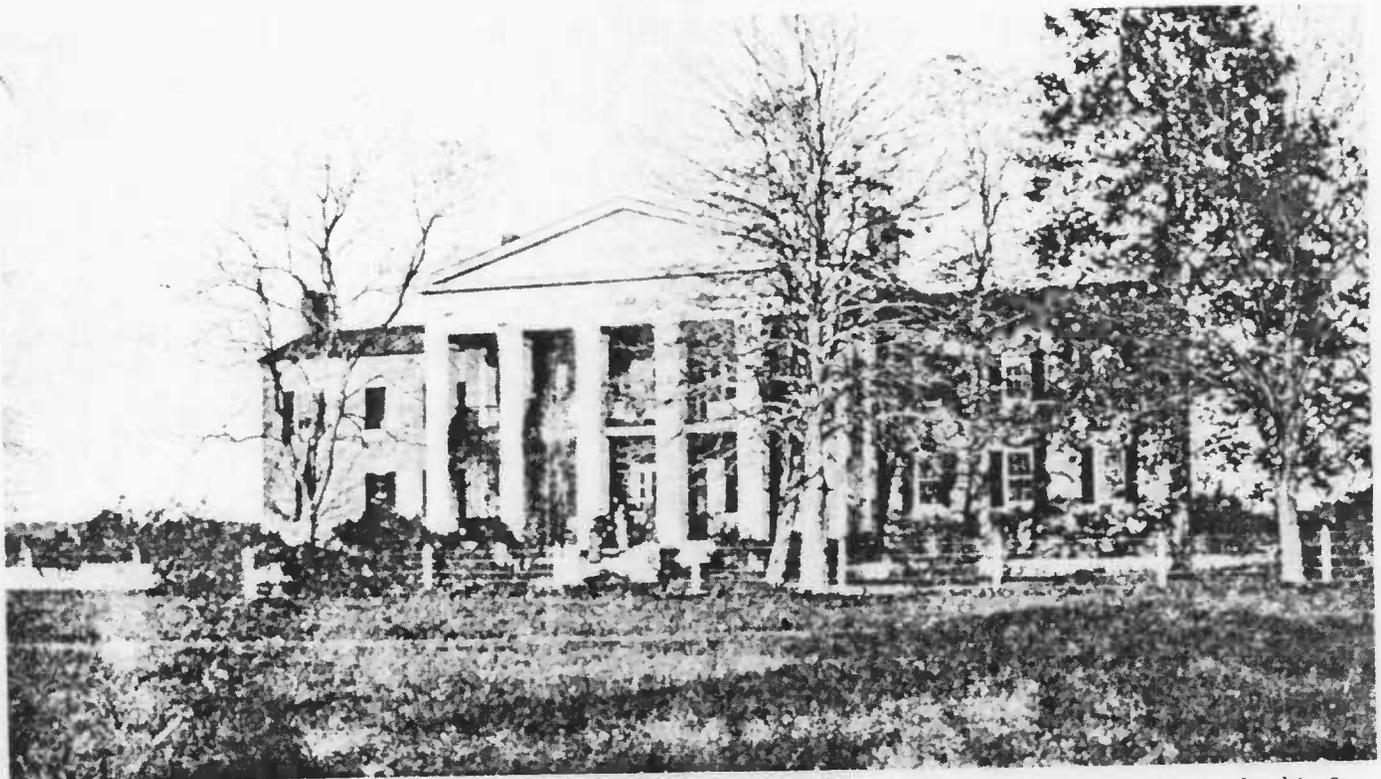
to the institution. The year-long commemoration of the school's founding began on Commencement Day, 12 June 1939, with Governor Herbert R. O'Connor delivering the address to nineteen collegiate and twenty-three high school graduates. The theme of graduation weekend, "The Birth of the State's Living Monument," was carried through the next academic year. The centennial of "Enactment Day" was celebrated in grand style on Thursday, 21 March 1940. Press reports estimated that some 500 visitors attended the ceremonies, including the oldest living alumna (Mrs. Cornelia D. Jones, 86, an 1869 graduate); Mrs. Maddox, the former principal; representatives from Hood College and Charlotte Hall Academy; and the Leonardtown Fire Department, "in full regalia with its new equipment." The Seminary Glee Club appeared in period costumes on the stairway of Calvert Hall and presented songs from the 1830s-1840s, and at "high tea," all of the faculty members and several distinguished alumnae dressed in hoop skirts to serve as hostesses. Katherine Scarborough, a reporter

for the *Baltimore Sun*, wrote of the occasion: "Nobody gave a speech. None was necessary. The school spoke for itself, and in the exhibition room there were relics in plenty to tell the story of what had gone before." These included Board of Trustee Minutes from the 1840s, one of the Seminary's original desks from the 1850s, and "a silver fork used by two generations of girls at a time when students furnished their own cutlery." Trustee Grason, 84-year-old grandson of the governor who signed the Seminary legislation in 1840, even loaned a newel post from the seventeenth-century State House.

Less than three months after the "Enactment Day" festivities, Commencement Week of 1940 brought a second, and even grander, centennial observance. An event-filled weekend began with public recitals by the music and speech departments on Friday, 7 June. Saturday was devoted to "our earliest and latest alumnae," and at an evening banquet, the oldest graduates inducted the Class of 1940 into the Alumnae Association. Congressman Lansdale G. Sasser of Prince George's



The Tercentenary Celebration adjoining the Seminary campus, from the Baltimore American, Sunday, 17 June 1934. Notice the new replica of the State House of 1676 and the bleachers (center left) for the pageant, "St. Maries, Mother of Maryland." The large tents (center) occupied part of the old townlands where Anne Arundel Hall would be built twenty years later. To the right, is the new road (present Route 5) that was cut specifically to direct the heavy traffic away from campus and toward the parking areas. Many thousands of revelers slept in their cars for two days due to the shortage of overnight accommodations.



"The Seminary Building" (the original Calvert Hall), as it probably appeared soon after construction was completed in October 1845. A visitor in 1869 described it as "a large brick building that stands dreary and treeless, looking like a factory. . . . {The campus} would be an excellent place for a convent of Carthusians, but to banish lively girls to this lonely region, lovely though it is, . . . must have been the conception of some malicious and dyspeptic old bachelor."

ture, it allowed for the purchase of six acres of Trinity Church land from the Vestry of William and Mary Parish (\$609.25) and the construction of the Seminary Building (\$13,486.52), along with fixtures, furnishings, and fencing (\$2,002). For an additional \$100.00, the trustees also procured a right of way for "an avenue 20 feet wide," which by 1847 would connect the school to distant cities via the steamboat port at Brome's Wharf. (This road is still extant today, leading to the river alongside the Reconstructed State House.) On 3 August 1844, the trustees laid the cornerstone of the Seminary Building, with Randolph Jones, son of the trustee and heir to Cross Manor, delivering a stirring address. In dedicating the largest building to rise at the ancient capital in over a century-and-a-half, Jones reflected the local optimism for a brighter future: "May it be the morning star of moral light which brings in day, beautiful day, to Old St. Mary's." Three weeks later, Trustees Combs, Jones, and Bennett deeded the Seminary campus, including a portion "of the ancient city of St. Mary's," to the State of Maryland—probably the most significant single event that ensured the survival of the school to this day (21 August 1844, St. Mary's County Land Record JH No. 13, f. 381).

When contractor Thomas Evans completed the

two-story, double-porticoed "Plantation Greek" Seminary Building on 27 October 1845, the hopes and dreams of countless supporters seemed fulfilled. This original Calvert Hall*—although not officially named as such until 1955—was described by a Georgetown resident soon after construction as a "beautiful mansion." It was an imposing sight on a significant site and a fitting symbol of a community renaissance. The building's many chimneys and six white columns, thick and square, towered above nearby Trinity Churchyard, the tranquil resting place of colonial generations, and faced toward the Potomac River, alive with the traffic of commerce. Looking out upon the ruins of the old capital, this newest monument on those hallowed grounds contrasted sharply with the oldest—the massive but decaying mulberry tree that had greeted Leonard Calvert's arrival in 1634. The only other landmarks in St. Mary's City were Trinity Episcopal Church, which had been built with State House bricks in 1829, and the recently completed home of Dr. John M. Brome (1819–1887) at his St. Mary's Manor plantation in Governor's Field.

On 27 October 1845, the same day that Calvert

*Hereafter, "Calvert Hall" will be used instead of the "Seminary Building," since most people know this centerpiece of the campus by that name.

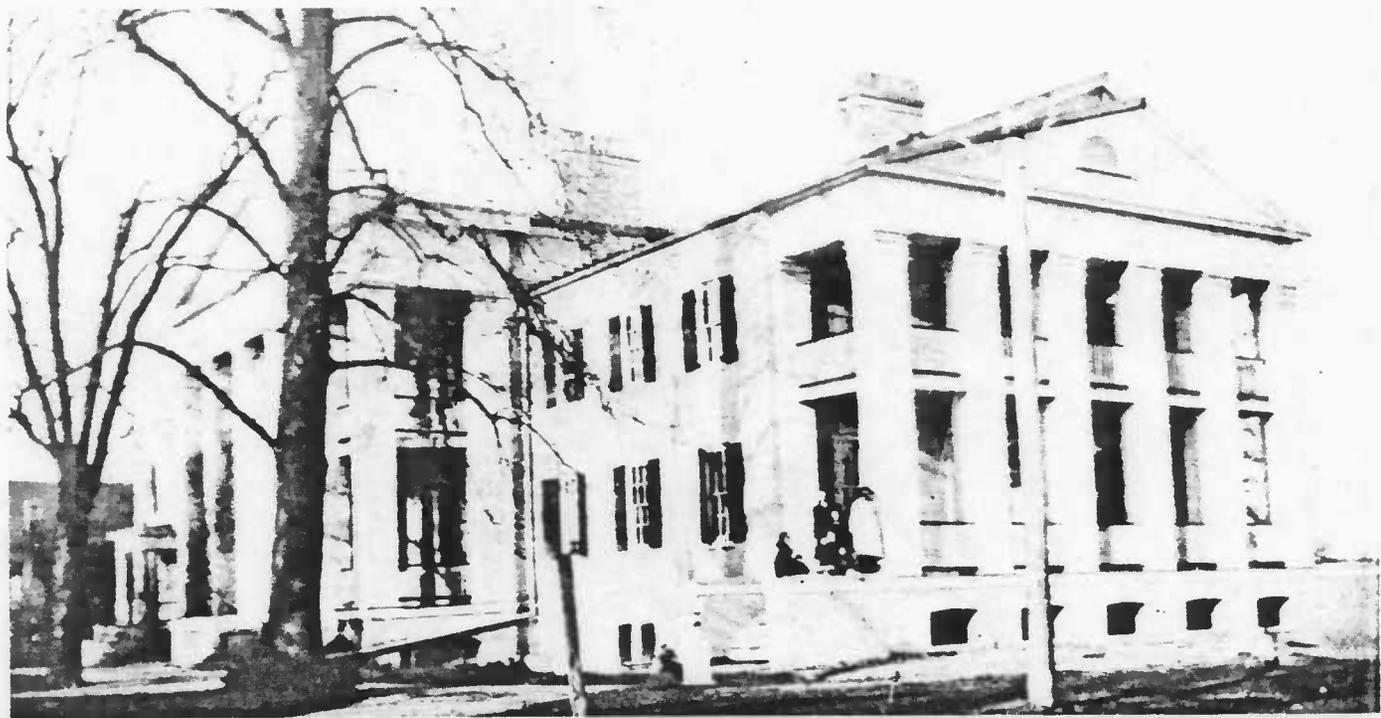
September 1864 and 19 August 1867, and she probably remained in that post until her death in August 1869; however, newspapers were silent on the subject of the Seminary in 1863, 1865, and 1866. Textbooks from the school—*Elements of Mythology; or, Classical Fables of the Greeks and Romans* (21st ed., Philadelphia: Moss, Brother and Co., 1860) and Mary A. Swift's *First Lessons on Natural Philosophy for Children* (rev. ed., Hartford: William J. Hamersley, 1862)—reveal that one Lucy Dunbar, who signed and dated the inside covers, was attending classes at the Seminary in February 1864 and May 1865. Considering that teachers and students had been in short supply during the best of times; that several of the trustees were distracted by the war and even joined military units; and that few Southern-sympathizing county families would have wanted their young daughters away from home and so near to several Union Army encampments (Cross Manor, Point Lookout, and Leonardtown), it is incredible that the Seminary continued to hold classes for even part of the Civil War.

Second Rising of the Phoenix

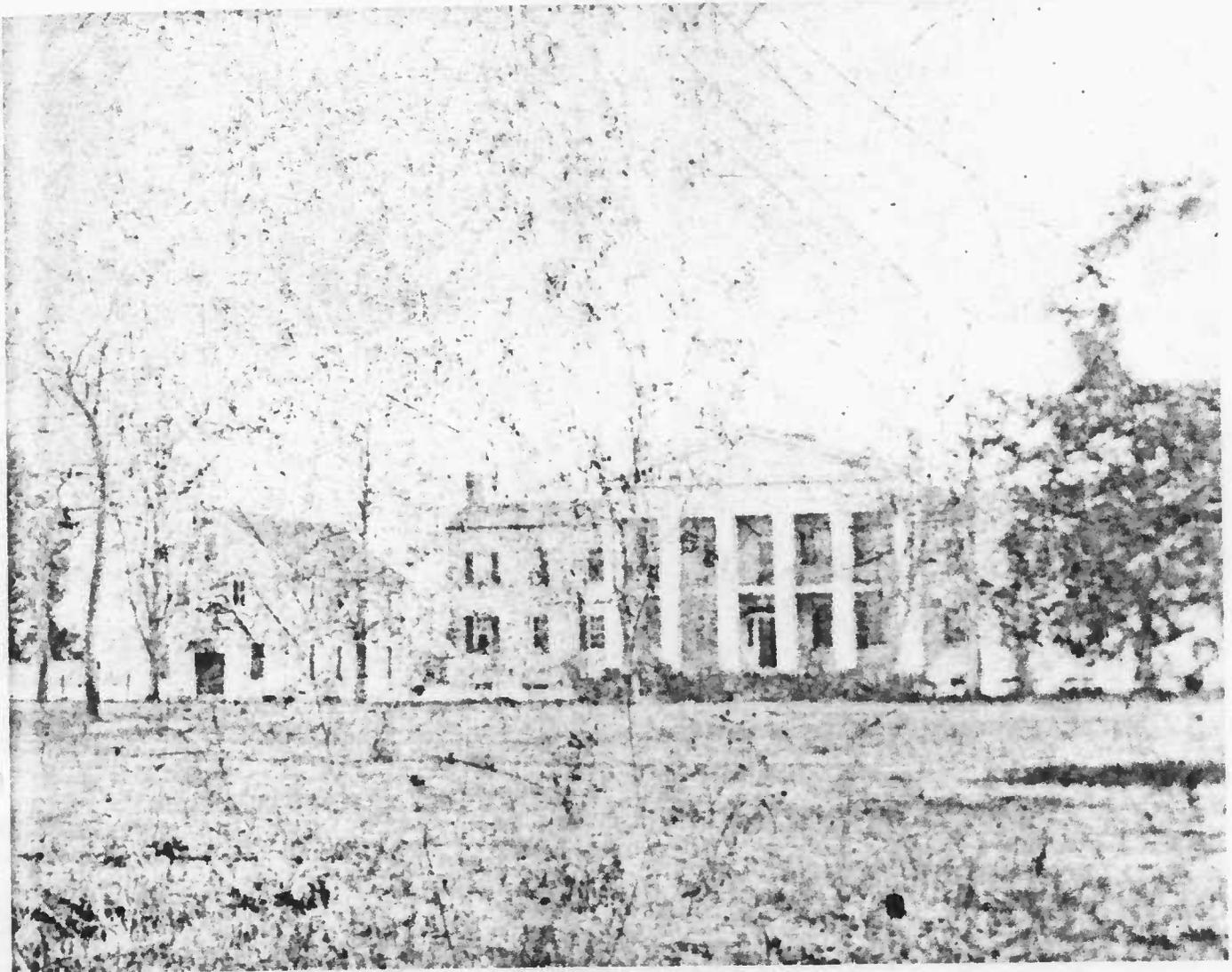
After a troubled quarter-century of bare survival, the Seminary's perseverance in the face of scandal, indebtedness, and the turmoil of war was rewarded by the state. Less than a decade after it had first resuscitated

once more rescued the seminary from certain collapse between 1864 and 1868. The timely arrival of essential financial support from Annapolis finally put the Seminary on its feet and permitted the school to prosper for the next 120 years.

Immediately following the Civil War, the State of Maryland belatedly created a comprehensive system of free public education, but instead of closing the troublesome boarding school in St. Mary's City in the name of progress or conformity, public officials consistently regarded the Seminary as an essential part of Maryland's emerging educational future. Under the pro-Union, abolitionist Whig governor, Augustus W. Bradford, the state in 1864 appropriated \$2,000 to help retire the debts of the Seminary. Bradford's successor, the "Know-Nothing" ex-mayor of Baltimore, Thomas Swann, signed "An Act for the Relief of the Saint Mary's Female Seminary," which had passed the General Assembly on 23 March 1867. This law appropriated \$1,500 "or so much thereof as shall be necessary to repair and put in proper condition the said Seminary." A year later, on 28 March 1868, the General Assembly pledged a continuing annual allocation of \$2,500, payable every 1 April, "for the preservation of the Institution"—especially Calvert Hall, which was described in the legislation as a "structure . . . of such magnitude and character that the incidental expenses necessary to keep up repairs has



Old Calvert Hall, with painted or white-washed walls, as it probably appeared from the mid-1870s until 1924. This rare view shows the two-story porch facing toward Trinity Rectory that would have served as a "fire escape" in this period.



A rare view of the frame Annex (dedicated in June 1892)—the first academic building constructed on campus since 1845.

construction projects had been funded, visited the St. Mary's campus and made a thorough investigation of its operations. He criticized the unreliable water pumping system, the method of sewage disposal, deficient furnishings in classrooms and dormitories, the shortage of books in the library, the absence of science laboratories, and the byzantine accounting procedures that required the principal to cover virtually all expenses out of a single, annual Board appropriation of between \$5,200 and \$5,800. Much of Davenport's lengthy report smacked of an urban bias against an institution that he considered too rural and too small to justify state support in a new era of standardized, "efficient" public education. Davenport unfairly criticized the Board for not providing buildings, furnishings, and student services that only more money could have addressed; ironically, his investigation of the school immediately preceded a period (1915–1917) when the state treasurer failed to honor the financial commitments originally made to

the Seminary by the legislature in 1868. Forced to borrow thousands of dollars to meet routine operating expenses and to pay teachers' salaries, the trustees successfully weathered the crisis while continuing to support half the student body on full scholarships. Indeed, during this period, the bonds grew stronger between Board members and the Seminary's "efficient corps of teachers."

The students and staff of St. Mary's Female Seminary had learned long before that abundant financial resources and elegant campus facilities have little direct bearing on the educational excellence of a school. Even in its darkest, most destitute days, the Seminary had placed its emphasis on the close contacts between caring teachers and a small core of interested students. This boarding school aspired to create, and had largely achieved, a family of learning across the generations, in which a highly controlled academic environment nurtured the individual talents of varied students. In 1914,



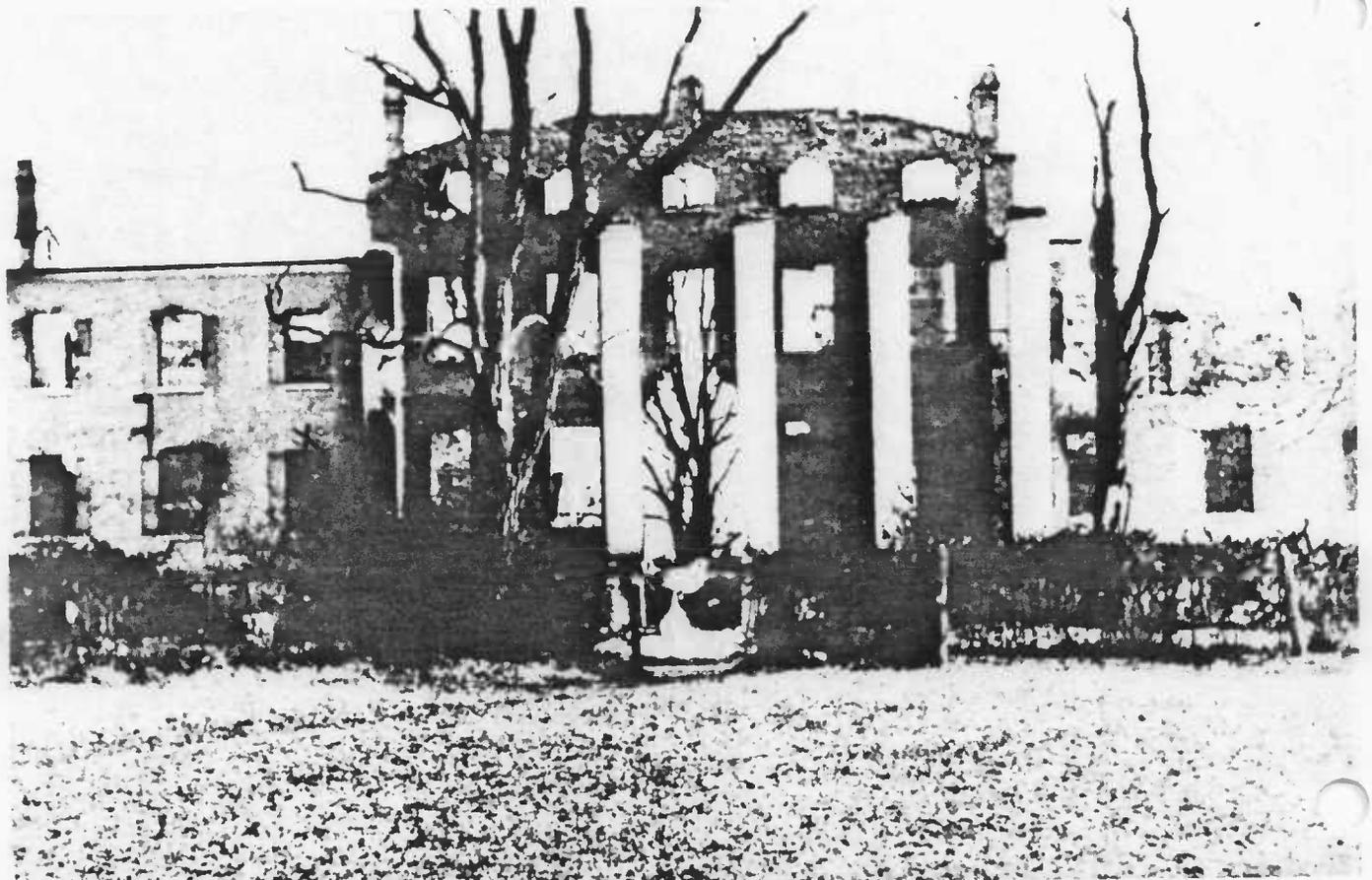
The School Building, completed in Spring 1903; shown here soon after construction and before it was painted to match the main building. Note the windmill to the left, which powered the pump for the artesian well.



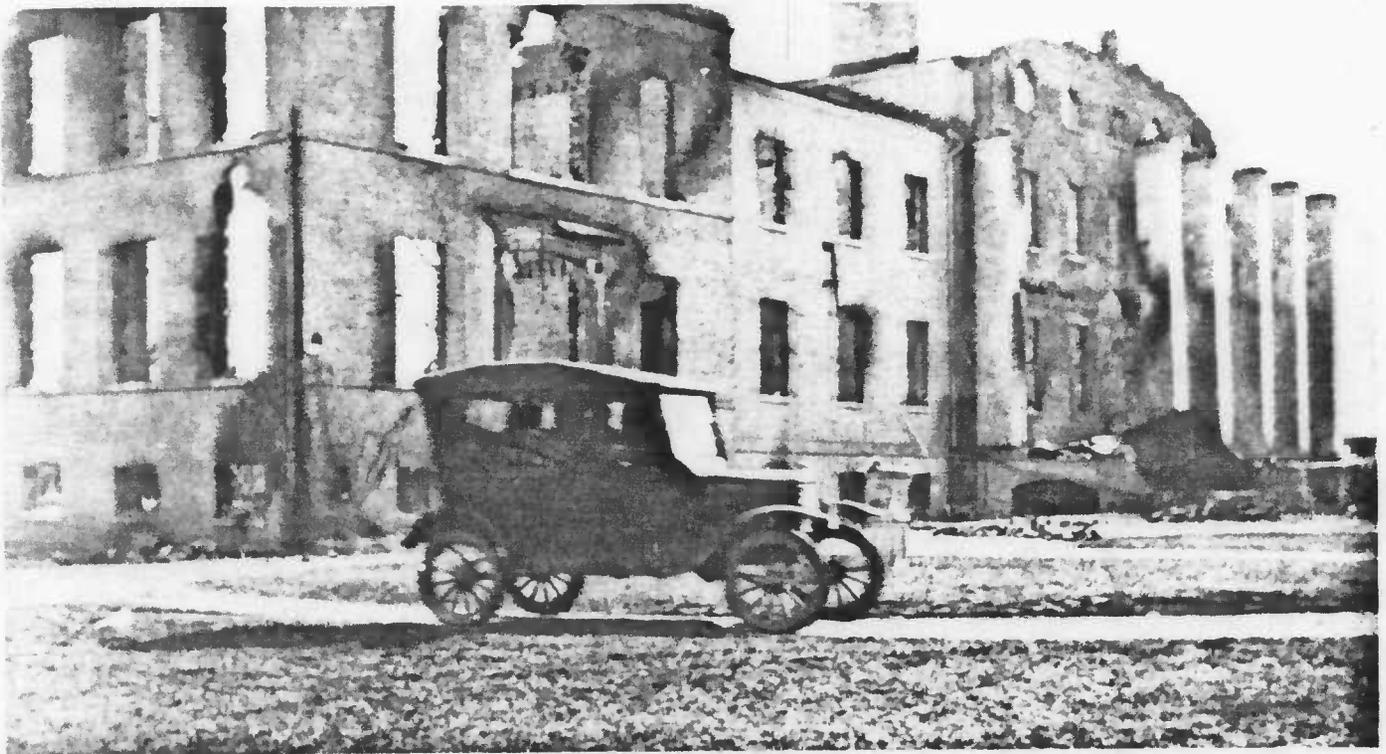
An early view of Music Hall (now St. Mary's Hall), in the foreground. This building was dedicated in June 1908 and was the last construction on campus until 1925.



Calvert Hall, St. Mary's Female Seminary, as it looked before the fire of 1924.



The ruins of old Calvert Hall after the fire of 5 January 1924.



The campus devastation that greeted Principal France on the morning of Sunday, 6 January 1924. The February 1924 issue of The Seminary Signal (student newspaper, Vol. 1, No. 4) memorialized the old building: "It stood on the brow of a hill, Looking out where the blue water gleams; Stately and white and still—A castle of youthful dreams."

home, Whitmore fell from his ice-coated roof and suffered injuries that incapacitated him for several weeks.

Returning from Christmas vacation on that Saturday evening, Miss France heard someone shout, "St. Mary's Seminary's burned to the ground!" as her bus pulled into Leonardtown. She arrived on campus in time to see the raging fire finish off the old building. As the new principal viewed the smoldering ruins, a pathetic memorial to eight decades of operation, Stephen M. Jones, a trustee since 1901 and now the Board treasurer, asked Miss France what was to be done. According to her recollection, she answered, very much in the spirit of Scarlett O'Hara: "We shall carry on!"

At dawn on Sunday, 6 January, all that remained of the Seminary's "beautiful mansion" were a few bleak and blackened walls and several charred chimneys. Pianos and furniture lay piled in Trinity Churchyard, while books, files, and paintings were stacked on the rectory porches. Community spirit was high, as the many local citizens who had fought the fire until 1 a. m. returned to the church ten hours later for a service of thanksgiving. Filing out of Trinity, they were greeted with tables of donated food, which would sustain them through long hours of moving salvaged possessions into Music Hall. Miss France rose early on Sunday morning and began the frantic task of calling the teachers and

students to tell them that the school would not reopen on the following day as scheduled. For the rest of Sunday, the principal held an unending series of meetings with school trustees, local officials, and the county's legislative delegation to discuss the future of St. Mary's Female Seminary.

Not everyone believed that the old school with only sixty students would or should survive, and even the most optimistic supporters had difficulty predicting where and when it could reopen. The trustees considered holding classes at Porto Bello, the well-known eighteenth-century manor house in Drayden, owned and offered by Trustee J. Allan Coad, but a newspaper article on Monday, 7 January, announced that the school would resume operations within two weeks at the Scotland Beach Hotel near Point Lookout. After two tense days of doubts, fully expecting state officials to close the school permanently, Miss France finally received the welcome news on Monday evening that Governor Albert C. Ritchie and the State Board of Public Works had given preliminary approval to construct temporary housing *on campus*—a vital commitment that would allow the Seminary to reopen and ultimately to remain at the historic first capital. As it had done so many times before, the persevering St. Mary's "phoenix" would rise again from the ashes, this time literally. But on this oc-

Two Seasons of Celebrations

In the dark days of the Great Depression, the State of Maryland and St. Mary's Female Seminary offered the public two special celebrations that relieved the tension of troubled times. The first, in 1934, was the 300th anniversary of Maryland's founding at St. Mary's City; the second, in 1939-40, was the 100th anniversary of the Seminary's founding as the Monument School. Both events were hopeful reminders of the benefits of perseverance, recalling that the residents of this site in the distant past had survived crises and surmounted challenges to create a notable collective legacy of persistent struggle for all the present and future citizens of Maryland.

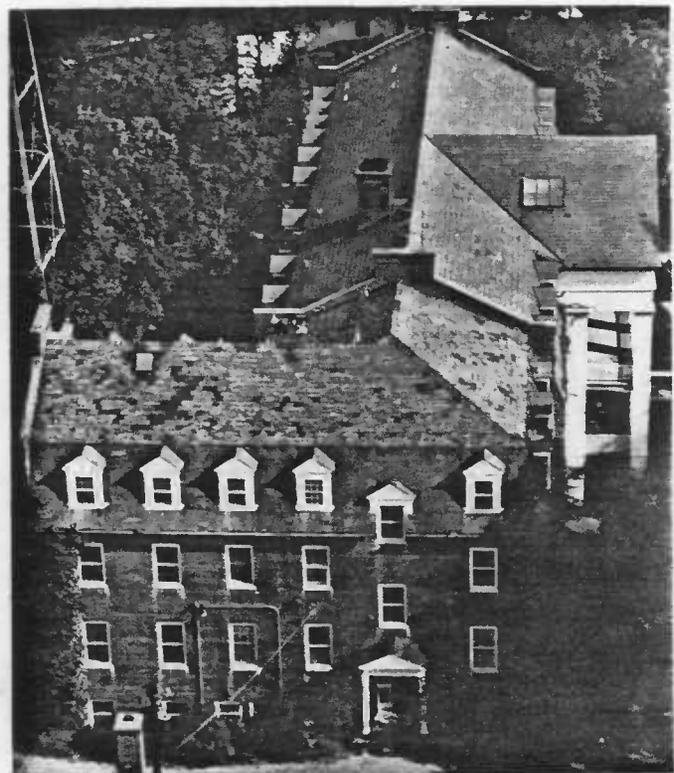
The Maryland tercentennial presented quite a contrast to the state's bicentennial in 1834, for finally, one hundred years later, St. Mary's City and its Monument School were to be the main focus of activity and attention. Since the founding of the Seminary, school officials had dreamed of such an occasion to increase the public's awareness of the ancient capital and its antebellum academy. Maryland's 300th birthday party loomed large in the minds of Seminary administrators and state officials, and every campus improvement for five years before the anniversary was justified on the basis of the huge crowds and extensive press corps that would visit St. Mary's City in 1934.

In May 1927, the high school senior class donated the large, ornamental cast-iron arch that graced the Seminary entrance gate until the late 1960s. In April 1929, Trustees J. Allan Coad, George C. Peverley, and Lawrence P. Williams finally convinced their colleagues in the state legislature to pay for the construction of the riverside wing of Calvert Hall, which would complete the building as the architect had originally conceived it. With the General Assembly's appropriation of \$30,000 and Governor Ritchie's personal assurances of an additional \$10,000 to come later, the Board of Trustees borrowed the money that allowed construction to begin immediately. On 11 September 1929, after nine feverish months of work by construction crews, arriving students moved into the newly expanded Calvert Hall, complete with a fresh coat of whitewash on its square columns and a huge painted-iron replica of the state seal perched high on the front portico. As luck would have it, the Seminary finished the campus centerpiece and symbol just in time—only six weeks before the stock market crash on "Black Tuesday," 24 October 1929.

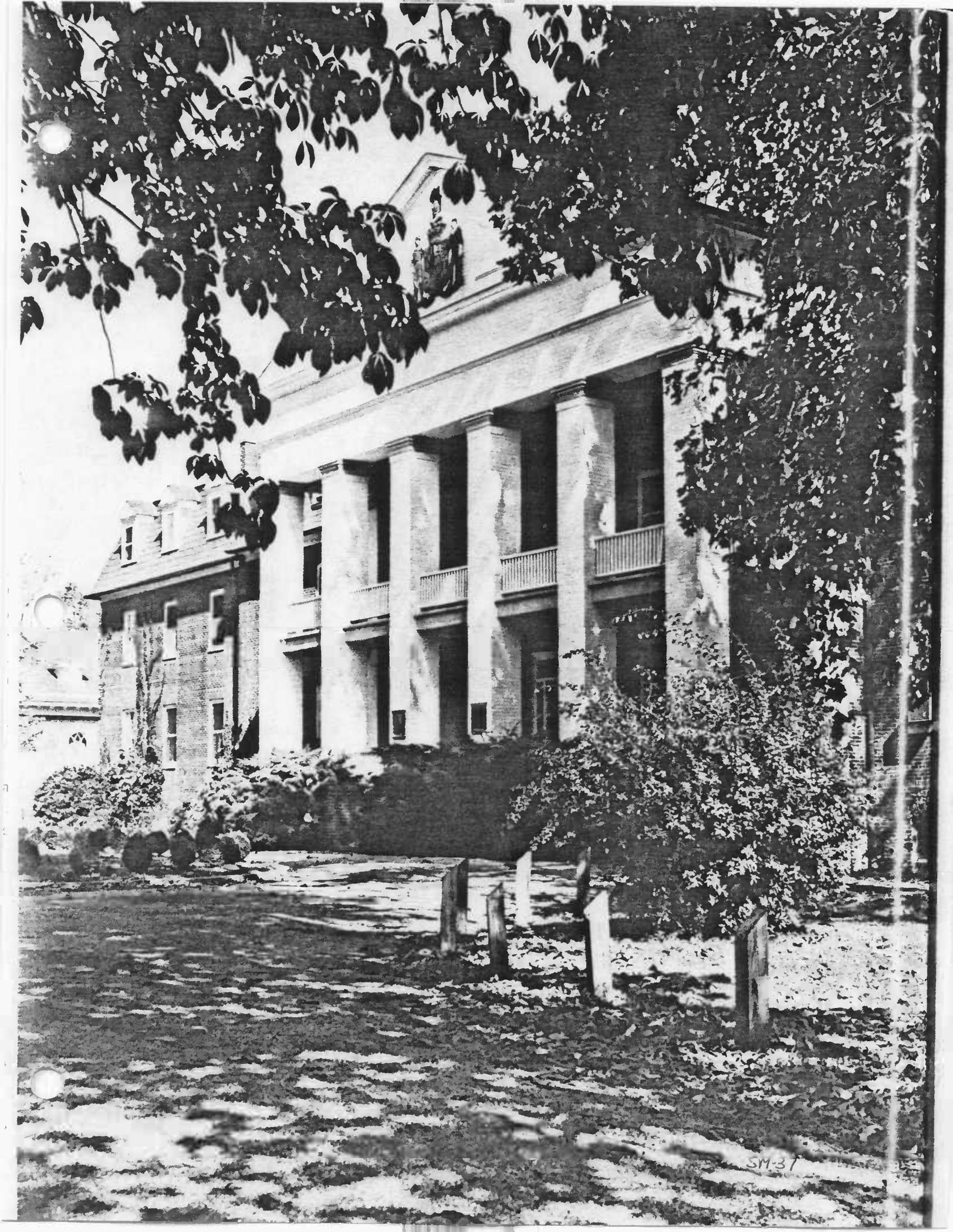
With optimistic preparations for Maryland's 300th anniversary taking precedence over the gloomy projections of an expanding national economic crisis, the Sem-

inary undertook several other projects that improved its appearance or efficiency. For the first time since the campus was purchased in 1844, the school acquired additional land for expansion, buying Mrs. Lilburn's small lot across Brome's Wharf Road following her death in 1932. The trustees granted a 99-year lease on part of the property to the State Tercentenary Commission as the site of Hans Schuler's "Freedom of Conscience Monument"; on the other portion of the Lilburn lot, they relocated the "Caretaker's Cottage," or "White House," which had been built from the "Barracks" of 1924 and which today houses the Advancement and Alumni offices. Storage sheds and the school garage were constructed on that site as well, housing a growing fleet of Seminary vehicles that included a 1928 bus (called "Our Pride and Joy") and a 1933 pick-up truck. In 1931, the school was connected to county electricity for the first time and converted the small brick building that had housed its Delco generator into a science laboratory. About the same time, another well was drilled and a new pump, water tank, and chlorinator were installed.

The final campus project, and one of the most memorable, was completed just before the official tercentennial activities commenced in June 1934. Two years earlier, the Board of Trustees had given permission



A later view of Calvert Hall, clearly showing the wing (in the foreground) that the architect designed in 1924 but was added only in September 1929.



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soon "enter upon an enlarged field of honor and usefulness"—and change the future of Maryland education.

Launching the Junior College

The Seminary trustees in the 1920s proved to be as farsighted and courageous as their nineteenth-century predecessors in not permitting short-term problems to disrupt their long-term dreams. On 19 February 1926, the trustees' executive committee voted to borrow another \$5,000 to meet current expenses and discussed "eliminating at least two teachers [one-third of the faculty] and curtailing the course of study" to stem the school's mounting indebtedness. However, at a meeting held *only three weeks later*, the full Board promptly dismissed such pessimism. At this historic 10 March meeting, the trustees approved a resolution by Judge Camalier and Delegate Williams that directed the principal and the executive committee to confer with the State Superintendent of Education at the earliest opportunity

"with a view to raising the standard of the school to that of a Junior College." On 21 April, Miss France reported on the committee's encouraging meeting with Superintendent Albert S. Cook, and two days later, the Board of Trustees formally agreed to offer a first-year junior college curriculum in 1926-27, with second-year coursework to follow soon after.

This was a remarkably daring step for a school that had been on death's door just two years before, but it followed the typical, traditional pattern at St. Mary's, for, since its founding, the Seminary had always rebounded from a crisis stronger than before. Now, St. Mary's would surprise everyone who thought of it only as a nostalgic reminder of the nineteenth century and would reward the state's confidence with a sudden, creative shift to collegiate instruction.

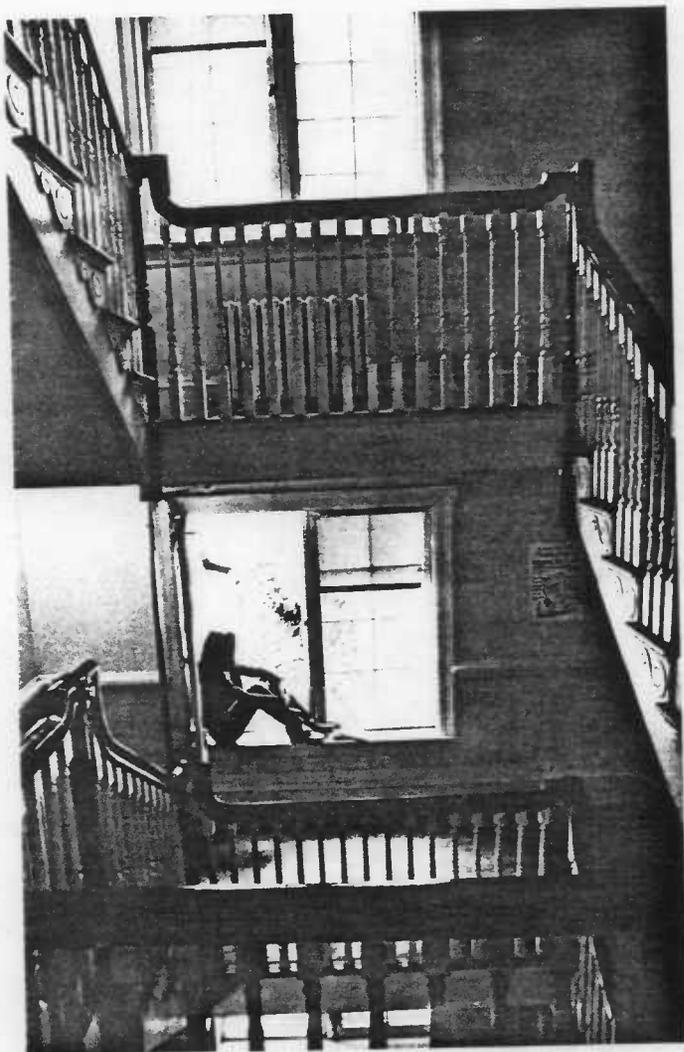
The Fall 1926 catalog announced the new venture for the school. St. Mary's was described as a "boarding school for girls, on the high school and junior college



Seminarians waiting for a steamboat at Brome's Wharf, St. Mary's City. When the Junior College was created in 1926-1928, steamboats were still an important means of transportation in Southern Maryland. Vessels of the Baltimore and Virginia Steamboat Company left from Baltimore at 4:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday and arrived at Brome's Wharf about 4:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Students were met by the Seminary custodian, who transported their trunks to Calvert Hall by cart or wheelbarrow. The steamboat age came to a sad and sudden end by 1935, due to company bankruptcies, increased competition from automobiles and improved state roads, and a fierce storm on 23 August 1933 that destroyed many of the region's wharves.

ing standards St. Mary's students were actually staying to graduate—182 in 1979, 194 in 1980, 169 in 1981, 170 in 1982, and 215 in 1983. Every graduating class after 1979 had a valedictorian based on quality point average, and beginning in 1977, the College instituted an annual awards ceremony (since 1980, called the Honors Convocation) to recognize students' academic achievement and leadership.

St. Mary's College began to generate a focused momentum again after what seemed like a wild goose chase of shifting priorities earlier in the 1970s. The school was still innovative—and certainly inexpensive—enough for most students, and the professors had a renewed sense of the wonderful, albeit less idealistic, potential of this still-young College. The news media responded with favorable publicity for a change, especially regarding new extracurricular activities and community-oriented events. In the midst of crisis in April 1977,



The solitude of venerable Calvert Hall reflected the calm conventionality that returned to the St. Mary's campus after 1977.

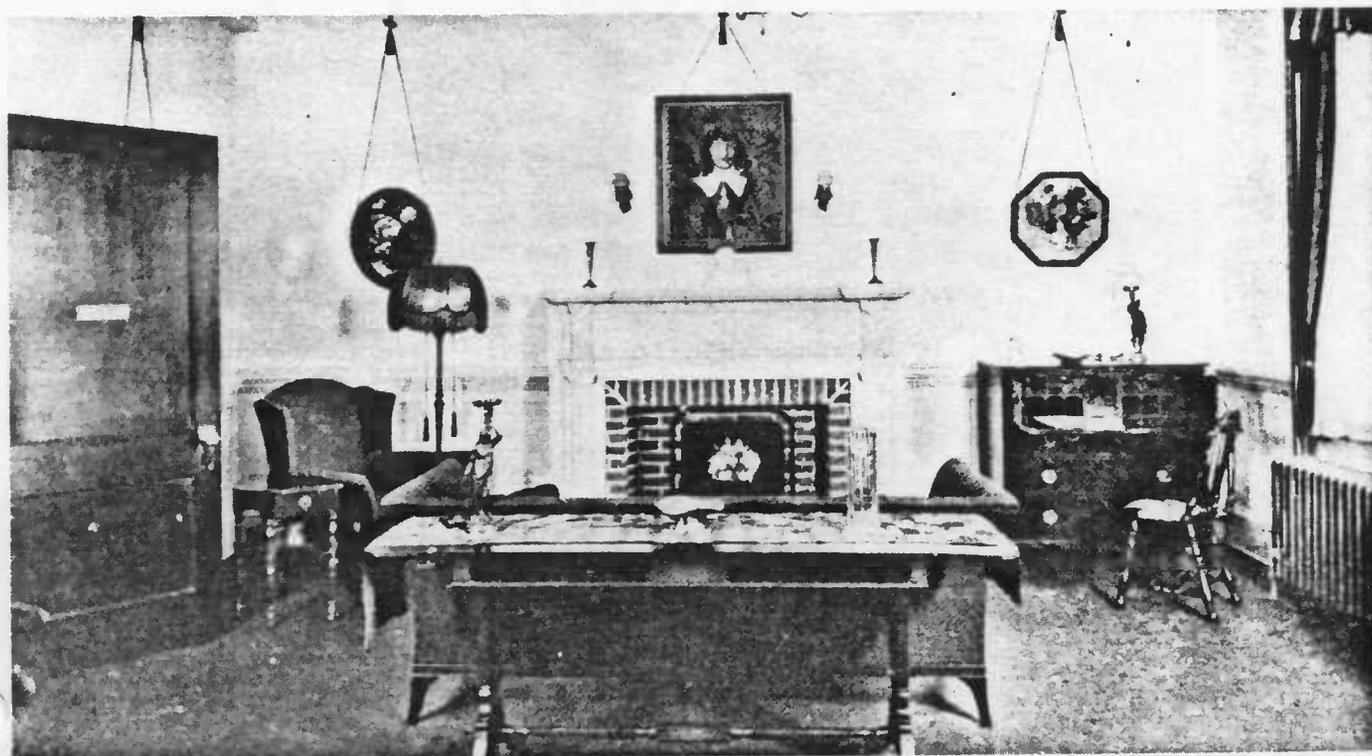
President Jackson had observed that "in the welter of other and spicier news about campus goings-on, solid accomplishments at the College are often overlooked by the news media." However, the press could not long ignore St. Mary's consistent rankings among the nation's top ten sailing and canoe/kayak teams, or the All-American honors accorded to three students, or the popular and rewarding Tidewater Music Festival, or the new Charlotte Hall Fellowships for county high school students, or the enormously successful Governor's Cup Yacht Race inaugurated in 1974. Between 1978 and 1981, the College sponsored stimulating and popular public symposia on China, the Soviet Union, and Islam; initiated a long and still-fruitful study-abroad program with the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Oxford; opened a \$4-million fine arts center (Montgomery Hall), which has stimulated new majors in music and theater and developed into an enriching cultural resource for the surrounding community; and instituted a highly selective Honors Program that has since attracted some of Maryland's brightest students to this campus. In those same years, two distinguished scholars were members of the St. Mary's faculty—Dr. Melvin H. Jackson, former maritime curator of the Smithsonian Institution, and Professor David Beers Quinn, former chairman of the department of history at the University of Liverpool, author of more than fifty books, and considered the world's authority on the early colonization of North America. In the 1977–78 academic year, these eminent scholars collaborated on a successful College lecture series that featured internationally-known speakers and resulted in the publication of a notable collection of essays, entitled *Early Maryland in a Wider World*.

The Storm After the Calm

In August 1979, an obviously pleased President Jackson observed that "St. Mary's has completed its most successful year ever. . . . The spirit of collegiality . . . is growing—one can see and feel it—and it is this spirit that will accelerate the process of transforming our good college into an excellent one." Ironically, the spirit of collegiality that helped nurture, and was nurtured by, an atmosphere of calm, steady progress on campus did not depend on, or extend to, President Jackson himself. Only two and a half years later, he would suddenly vanish, resigning his office quickly and cleanly once the Board of Trustees rallied behind the faculty and students. But an even broader and deeper sense of collegiality survived, indeed thrived, without him, evolving into a renaissance of the spirit at St. Mary's that is with us still.

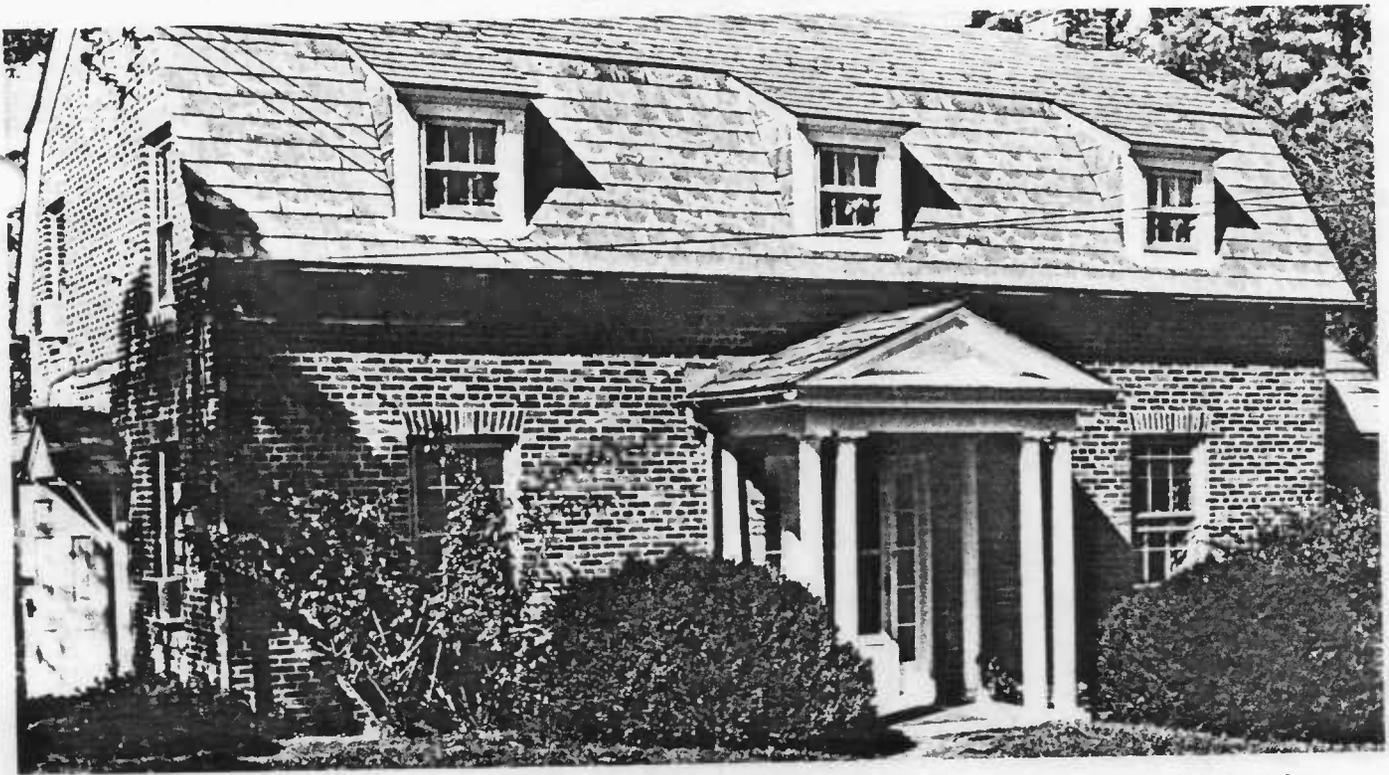


The central entrance foyer of the new Calvert Hall, 1925, showing several of the historic furnishings donated to the school. The open door to the right now leads to the President's Office.



The new Reception Room in rebuilt Calvert Hall, furnished as a tribute to Mrs. Lucy Virginia Maddox, past principal (1900-1923). Note the "portrait" of Leonard Calvert above the early nineteenth-century mantle from the Throughton/ Traughton House in St. Mary's City. Today the mantle is in the Provost's Office, Calvert 104.

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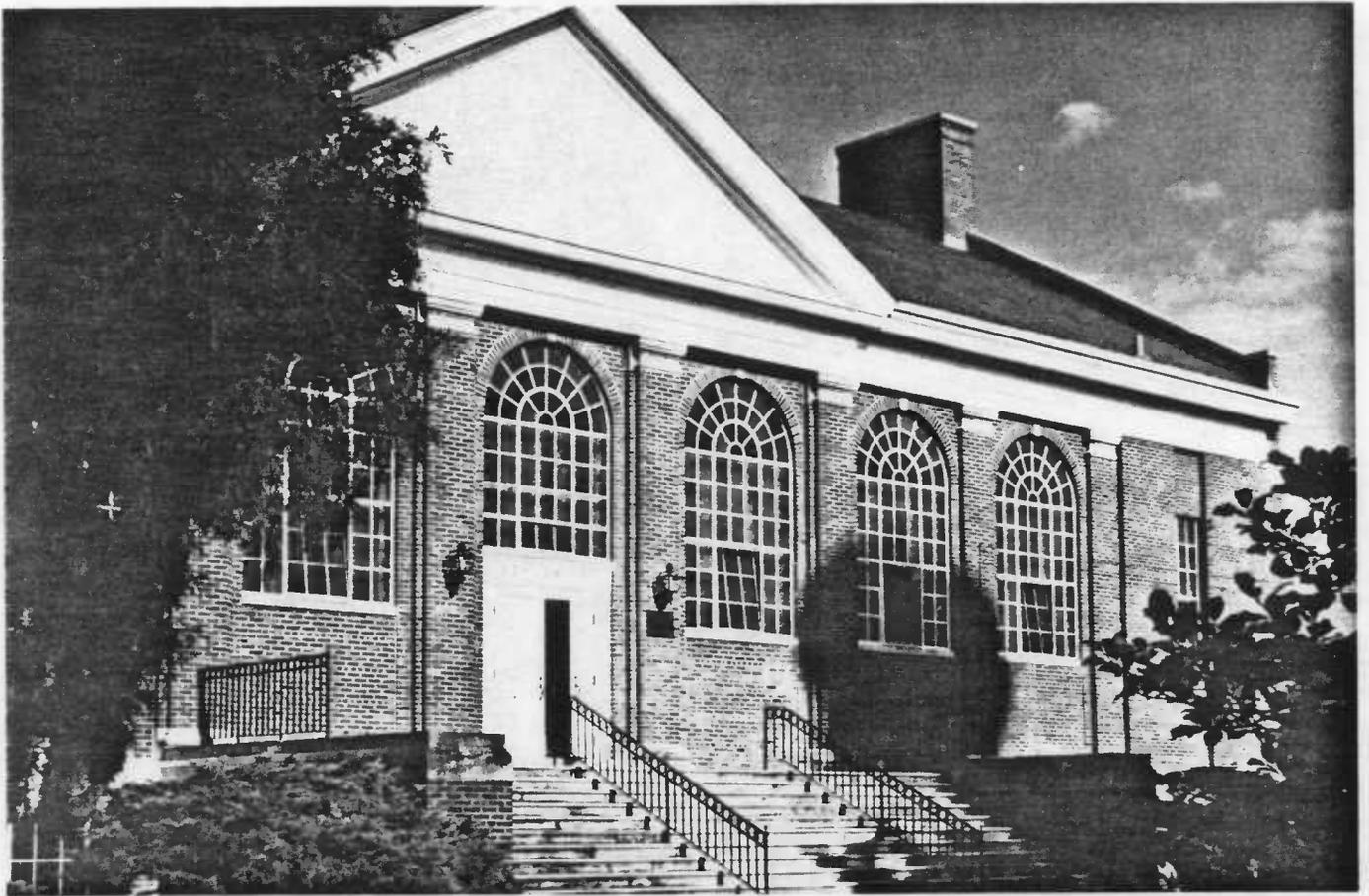
The Alumnae Lodge, reconstructed from the Seminary stable with some \$2,000 in alumnae donations and dedicated on 4 July 1924. In June 1922, the Association's 200 members endowed the Alumnae Scholarship (still given), and the organization received a state charter of incorporation on 22 March 1927.

Two hours! And the miserable year ended happily after all!" At Commencement on 26 June 1925, eleven students graduated, having been denied a typically serene Seminary experience their last two years. Probably only one of those graduates, Elizabeth M. Dixon, had any reason to welcome the Seminary fire, for she met and soon married Baltimore architect Bernard Evander, who had come to St. Mary's to work on the reconstruction of Calvert Hall.

The 1925-26 academic year was much calmer. A growing percentage of the current student body had not even known old Calvert Hall, and they looked forward to spending the first full year in the new building, now three stories tall and equipped with all the modern conveniences. Although the riverside wing shown on the architect's plans would not be added until 1929, the white-columned building closely resembled the original structure and perpetuated the ambience of a traditional academy of the antebellum South. Moreover, Calvert Hall was furnished by benefactors who were conscious of the school's unique ties to regional heritage, so that "practically everything was of historic value." Such donated items included a painting of the first settlers, from the State House in Annapolis; a circa-1816 mantle from the Throughton/Traughton-Brome House of St. Mary's City, donated by Mr. and

Mrs. J. Spence Howard (she the daughter of Doctor Brome); a mounted composing table, alleged to have come from "the First Printing Press in the American Colonies"; a conceptualized "portrait" of Governor Leonard Calvert; a large painting for the entrance hall, donated by Mrs. T. Rowland Thomas of historic "Clocker's Fancy"; two eighteenth-century Chippendale chairs; and books contributed by Governor Ritchie, the Maryland State Library, and Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Appearances were deceptive, however, for the emphasis on the Seminary's plantation past masked progressive educational goals that would soon transform the old-fashioned boarding school into a modern, innovative junior college. Although St. Mary's Female Seminary had developed into an excellent academic institution of its type, traditionalism and provincialism had limited its horizons before 1924. The very destructiveness of the fire that year proved to be an important catalyst for a new beginning. Because that tragedy had brought unprecedented attention and assistance to the Seminary, school officials were encouraged to reevaluate and redefine its future. When Governor Ritchie and members of the 1924 General Assembly came to campus on 22 May 1926 for the dedication of a memorial plaque thanking them for their support, they could little imagine that this old, traditional school would



Exterior and interior views of The Gymnasium, dedicated on 21 March 1941. This is now Kent Hall, where the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics is located.

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