

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: St. Agnes Catholic Church and School Complex Inventory Number: BA-3190
 Address: 5422 Old Frederick Road 603 St. Agnes Lane Historic district: yes no
 City: Catonsville Zip Code: 21229 County: Baltimore County
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
 Property Owner: St. Agnes Catholic Church Tax Account ID Number: 0119000180
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 286 Tax Map Number: 95
 Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration
 Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
 Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 7/29/2005

Documentation is presented in: H. Ralph Heidelberg, compiler: Catonsville's Churches, Schools Before 1950 (Catonsville: Friends of Catonsville Library, 1987); Catonsville Room files, Catonsville Public Library

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The St. Agnes Church and School Complex is set on a two-acre lot bounded on the north by Baltimore National Pike, on the west by St. Agnes Lane, and on the south by Old Frederick Road. The complex consists of five brick and stone buildings dating from 1923 to 1951. These include a church, two school buildings, a convent, and a rectory. The site has some lawns and trees on the perimeter, but is mostly paved for parking and outdoor recreation purposes. On the north, northeast, and northwest sides, the complex is surrounded by busy Baltimore National Pike and related commercial development. The remainder of the campus is bordered by residential areas.

The church, constructed in 1950, is at the northeastern corner of the lot and faces north across Baltimore National Pike. It is an oblong front-gabled two-and-one-half-story building, three bays wide and ten bays deep, with a temple-front portico. It is set on a low foundation constructed of common-bond red brick with stone trim. The gables have stone cornices and full stone returns with ogee moldings, with a second band of stone below denoting an entablature. The foundation projects slightly from the upper part of the building with a drip course, and is also constructed of brick. The front portico has four stone Corinthian columns and a sculpted stone rectangular plaque in the gable. Three entrances lead into the church nave; the center entrance has double-leaf six-

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Tom Ambrose
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/27/06
 Date

[Signature]
 Reviewer, National Register Program

8/7/06
 Date

Panel doors and the side entrances have single doors. All of the door have simple stone surrounds. On the second floor level are six-over-six windows with stone lintels and sills. The steeple, set atop the front gable peak, is an octagonal lantern with vinyl siding and twelve-light vinyl windows, topped with a gilded domed roof and cross finial. The base of the lantern has diamond-shaped asphalt shingles and inset bullhorns to broadcast chimes. The sides of the building have entrances at basement level near the front, with six-over-six windows above. The main nave windows have Palladian-style round-arched tops with keystones and multipaned windows set with stained glass. On the west side of the building is a one-story, four-bay shed-roofed extension near the back that appears to be a sacristy. This section has eight-over-eight double-hung windows and a single door entrance.

The stone school building, constructed in 1926, is located on St. Agnes Lane, facing west. It is a gable-front, one-and-one-half-story building set on a high English basement. The stonework is a variegated dark-toned fieldstone with contrasting light-colored rusticated corner quoins and window surrounds. The high-pitched roof is slate and has two large shed dormers on each side, each containing four bays of single windows arranged symmetrically in two pairs. The dormers are sided with slate as well. The front gable on the second floor has a single bay of three attached windows, the center of which is wider and has an arched transom. All of the second-floor windows are one-over-one vinyl replacment windows. The building's first floor is five bays wide and eleven bays deep. The front has a neoclassical central entrance with white wooden pilasters supporting a molded lintel. A large transom and smaller sidelights surround a single-light door. Flanking the door are two sets of two windows, separated a short distance but sharing a common carved-stone lintel hood. The front entrance is connected to the street with a flight of stone and concrete steps, which proceeds down to a split near the bottom. On either side of the steps is a covered passageway leading to entrances into the basement level under the steps. The passageway has a shed roof, brick siding, modern metal doors at the ends, and a six-over-six window on each side. Each side of the school has ten windows and a single door entrance near the center. The side entrances each have a flight of stone steps running toward the front. Windows on the first floor level are double-hung six-over-six vinyl windows with three-light upper transoms.

Immediately south of the school is the front-gabled convent building, built ca. 1926-1927. This building is two-and-one-half stories plus a basement, and its front section is constructed of the same variegated stone as the school. A rear section, which appears to be constructed concurrently with or shortly after the front, is constructed of common-bond brick. The rear section matches the front section in height and massing. The convent is five bays wide and nine bays deep, including both sections. The high-pitched roof of the building is slate with two large wall dormers on each side, one above each building section. Each dormer is sided with slate and has four bays of windows, some of which are original six-over-six sash and some of which are vinyl replacement sash. The front dormer on the left (north) side is partially covered by a narrow stone chimney rising from inside the north wall of the lower floors. The third-floor gable window is a double-hung vinylw indow with an arched transom. Windows on the lower floors are a mixture of four-over-one and six-over six sash, which are mostly original wooden sash on the second floor of the stone section. Others are vinyl replacements, either one-over-one or six-over six sash. The paired front windows on the second floor share deep stone arches with stucco insets. The large northwest room on the first floor has stained glass windows and is probably a chapel. These windows were not original according to historic photos; it is possible that the stained glass sash were removed from the original church and installed in the convent during the 1950s. The convent has a recessed single door entrance with a neoclassical white wooden surround, and a flight of simple stone steps to the street. There is a pedimented side entrance on the north side of the brick section.

At the southwest corner of St. Agnes Lane and Old Frederick Road is the newer school building, constructed in 1954, which departs significantly from the Colonial Revival style of the rest of the campus. The school is a two-and-one-half-story, flat-roofed brick building, including a high English basement faced with concrete. Its main entrance faces south on Old Frederick Road, and is one bay wide. The building has a simple cornice band and rectangular flat stone bands surrounding each window or entrance bay. The front entry is a pair of modern glass and steel doors flanked by expanses of horizontal brickwork and surrounded by a

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

stone band. "St. Agnes School" is spelled in metal letters set along the top of the surround band. Above is a pair of double-hung windows, set within a surround that mimics the entrance surround. A plain cross is affixed to the cornice above the entrance bay. The sides of the building have four classrooms per floor, denoted by oblong bands of windows which are mostly glassblock with hopper casements along the bottom edge. Two classrooms on the west side of the building have windows made entirely of casement panels. Short windows indicate restrooms and offices. Stairwells are denoted by tall glassblock windows situated between floors on the east side. There are ground-level entrances below each stairwell, and a covered utility entrance on the west side. Basement-level windows are one-over-one vinyl double-hung sash.

At the southeast corner of the campus is a 1950s Colonial Revival brick rectory, separated from the other buildings by a large driveway and parking area. The rectory faces south to Old Frederick Road and is surrounded by lawns and trees. It is a gable-front, oblong, two-and-one-half-story structure built of common bond brick with wood and stone accents. The roof is slate and the shallow gable pitch has partial returns. The corners have raised brick quoins. Gabled dormers pierce the roof on both sides. It is five bays wide with a semicircular one-story entrance porch with slim Ionic wood columns and wrought-iron balustrades and balcony railing. The front door is the original paneled door with four lights in the top. The windows are typically eight-over-eight vinyl replacement sash, and adorned with flared brick lintels and stone keystones.

St. Agnes Church was founded at this site in 1853. A modest stone Gothic Revival church was erected at the southwest corner of Old Frederick Rd. and St. Agnes Lane, and a frame rectory stood a short distance east of the church, also fronting on Old Frederick Rd. Another frame house, possibly used as a school, stood on St. Agnes Lane behind the church. A parochial school was established at St. Agnes in 1865. The church property was located amid a cluster of homes, with a Methodist church situated a short distance west at the intersection of Johnnycake Rd. and Old Frederick Rd. Father Ignatius Fealey arrived to be the parish priest in 1922, and soon instituted a major fundraising and building program. Under his leadership, a new stone convent and an adjacent school building were constructed on the east side of St. Agnes Lane, behind the church, in 1926-1927. An earlier frame building on that site was removed. Father Fealey remained as pastor of St. Agnes until 1942. Some years later, the parish decided to build a larger new church and school building. The current church was constructed on the northeastern corner of the lot, facing toward Baltimore National Pike, in 1950. Within a few years, the old church was demolished and a modern new school building was constructed on the church's former site in 1954. The old frame rectory was replaced with a new brick rectory around this time. St. Agnes today continues to function as a church and coeducational pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school.

The original buildings of St. Agnes are long gone, and the campus was remade during the early-to-mid-twentieth-century into a largely Colonial Revival complex. The complex is an example of a Catholic parish and school that experienced significant growth between 1920 and 1960, and added buildings in popular styles of the day. The brick Colonial Revival buildings are good examples of postwar Colonial Revival design, while the brick school is typical of "modern" school design in the 1950s. However, these three buildings are rather pedestrian when compared to the rich and distinctive stonework of the old school and convent. This pair of buildings is truly unique, constructed with local stone in a vernacular that does not fit into any particular architectural style. However, the school is marred by the newer brick passageway across the front, and both buildings lack many of their original windows. All of the buildings on the campus suffer to some degree from loss of original windows and other materials, and the setting of most of the buildings has been negatively impacted by the widening and commercialization of Baltimore National Pike. As an overall group, the St. Agnes Catholic Church and School Complex is recommended not eligible; as a religious property it does not rise to the standard of Criteria Consideration A. Loss of setting and materials integrity, and overall lack of distinction, are the reasons for this recommendation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date



St. Agnes Catholic
Church & School
Complex
MIHP#BA-3190

Baltimore
West

CATONSVI

Woodlawn

Hillsdale Park
and Golf Course

Dickeyville

Wetheredville

St. Marys
Ch

Franklinton

Catonsville Manor

LEAKIN PARK

West
Hills

Thomas Jefferson
Sch

Roguel

Hunting Ridge

Wesley
Chapel

Mt. DeSales
H.S.

Mount DeSales

Harristown

INTERCHANGE
15

Westowne
Sch

Bancker
Sch

North Bend

Baltimore
National
Cemetery

St. Peter's
College

Kenwood

Paradise

Highwood
Sch

Duncan Sisters
Convent

St. Charles
Sch

FREDERICK

General German
Orphan Home

695

126

70

489

453

144

144



0A-3190

St. Agnes Catholic Church + School Complex
Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View to SE of Church on MD 40.

#1 of 7

007

1183



8A-3190

St. Agnes Catholic Church + School Complex

Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View to S of School bldg + rectory on St. Agnes Ln.

#2 of 7

1184



BA-3190

St. Agnes Catholic Church + School Complex

Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

view of old school, to SE

3 of 7 - 302

1178

ORIFILM



BA-3190

St. Agnes Catholic Church + School Complex

Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

view of rectory, to SE

#4 of 7

1179



BA-3190

St. Agnes Catholic Church + School Complex

Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO
View of

new school to SE from St. Agnes Ln.

#5 of 7

004

1180

Fujicolor



BA-3190

St. Agnes Catholic Church + School Complex
Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View to NW of new school, from Old Frederick Rd.

#6 of 7

001

1177



BA-3190

St. Agnes Catholic Church + School Complex

Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View to N. of Convent/rectory on Old Frederick Rd.

7 of 7 005

1181