

CARR-61

## St. John's Catholic Church, site

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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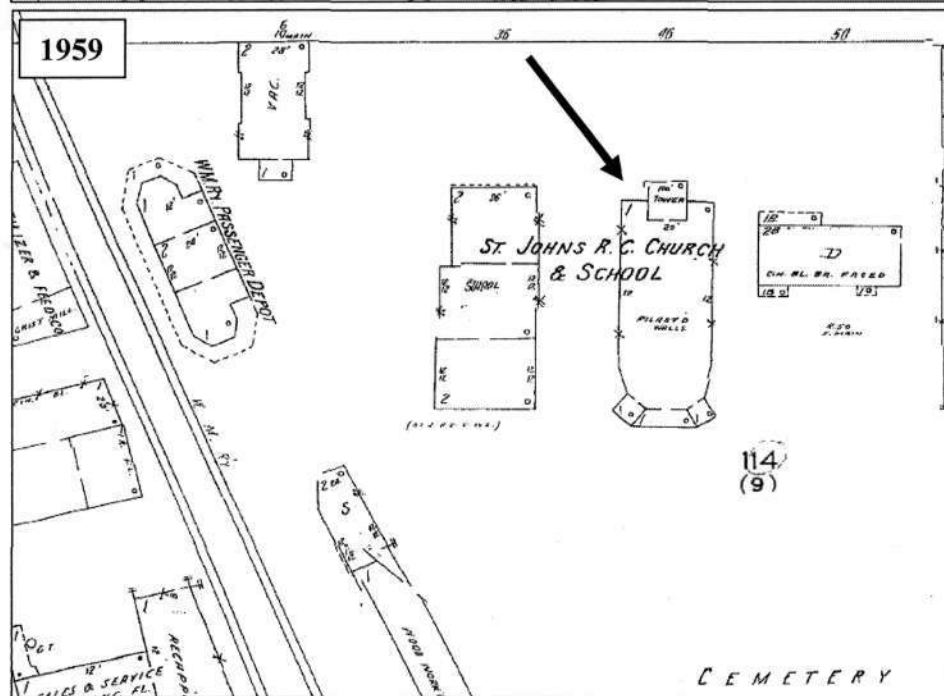
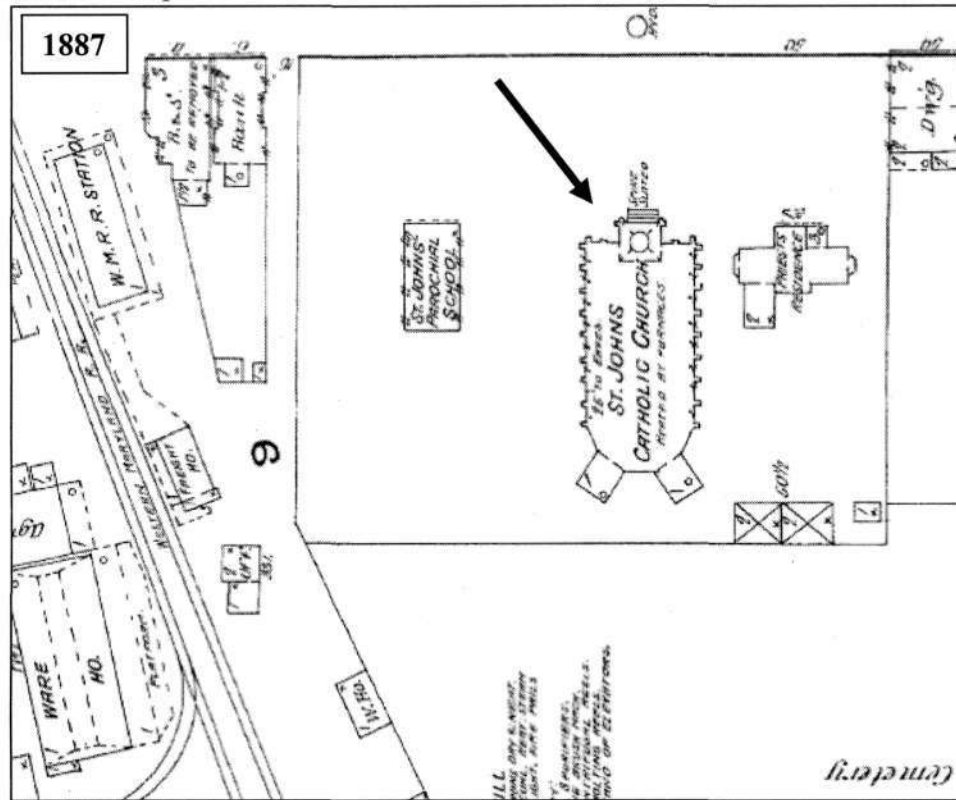
***Last Updated: 11-08-2012***

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St. John's Catholic Church, site

46 East Main Street (MD 32), Westminster

Sanborn Maps

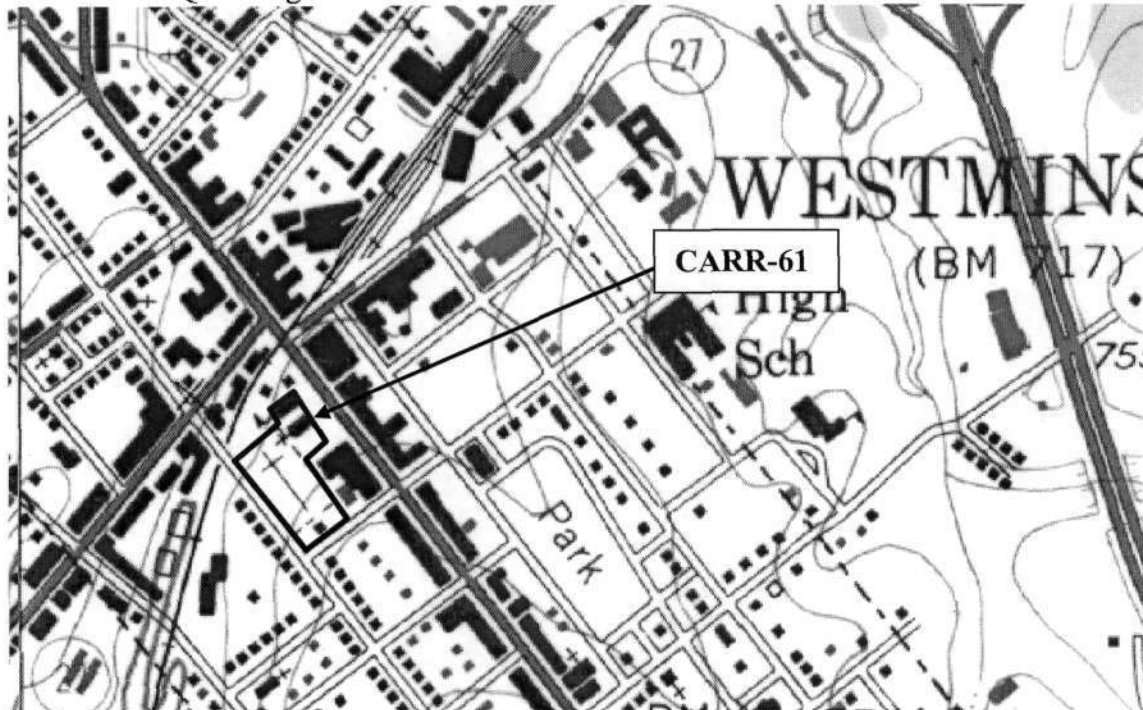


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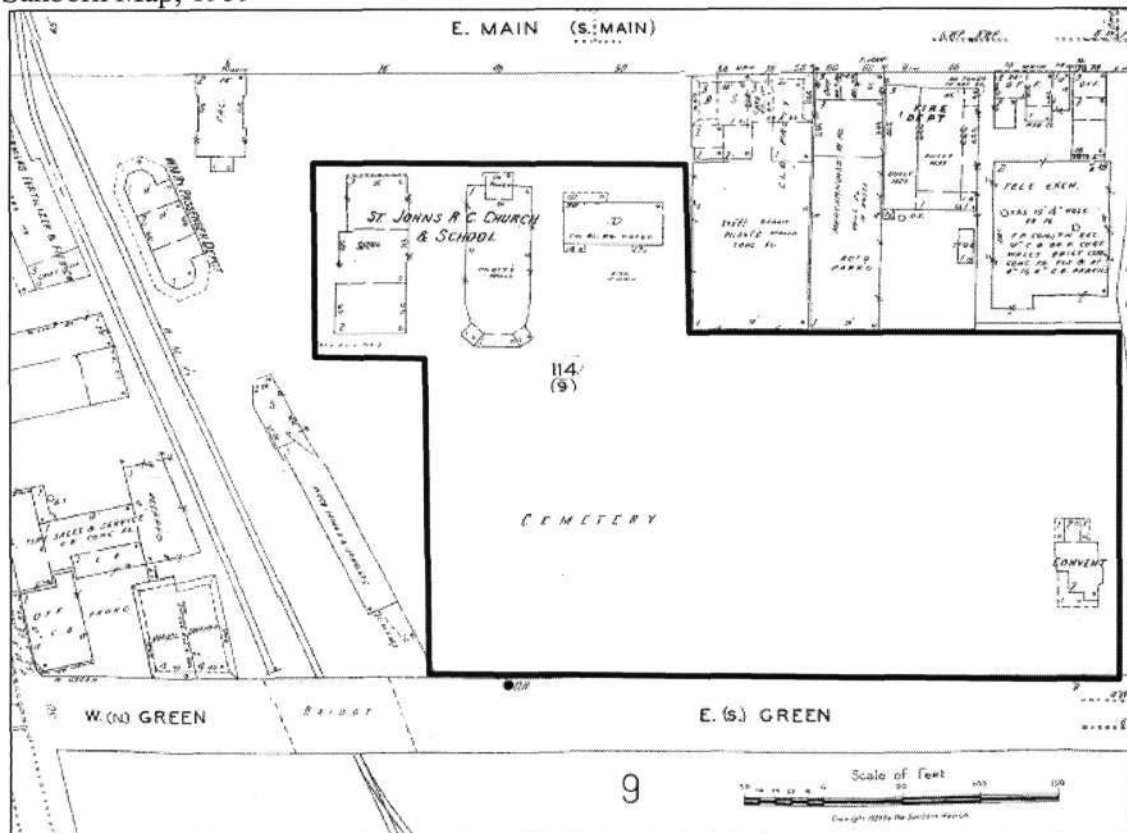
St. John's Catholic Church, site

46 East Main Street (MD 32), Westminster

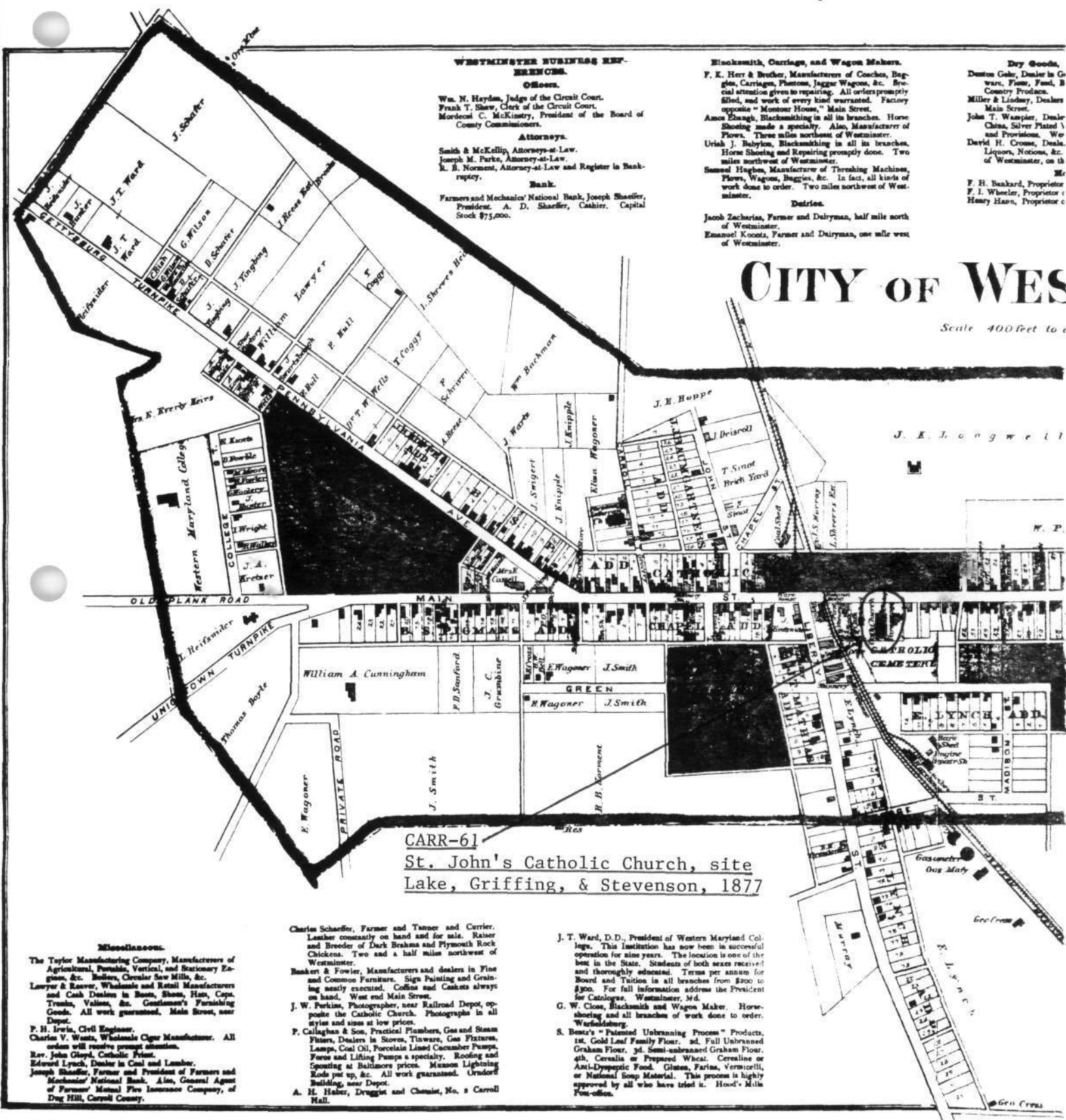
Westminster Quadrangle



Sanborn Map, 1959



## CITY OF WESTMINSTER





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4386

4385

4384

35'

4383

32'

31

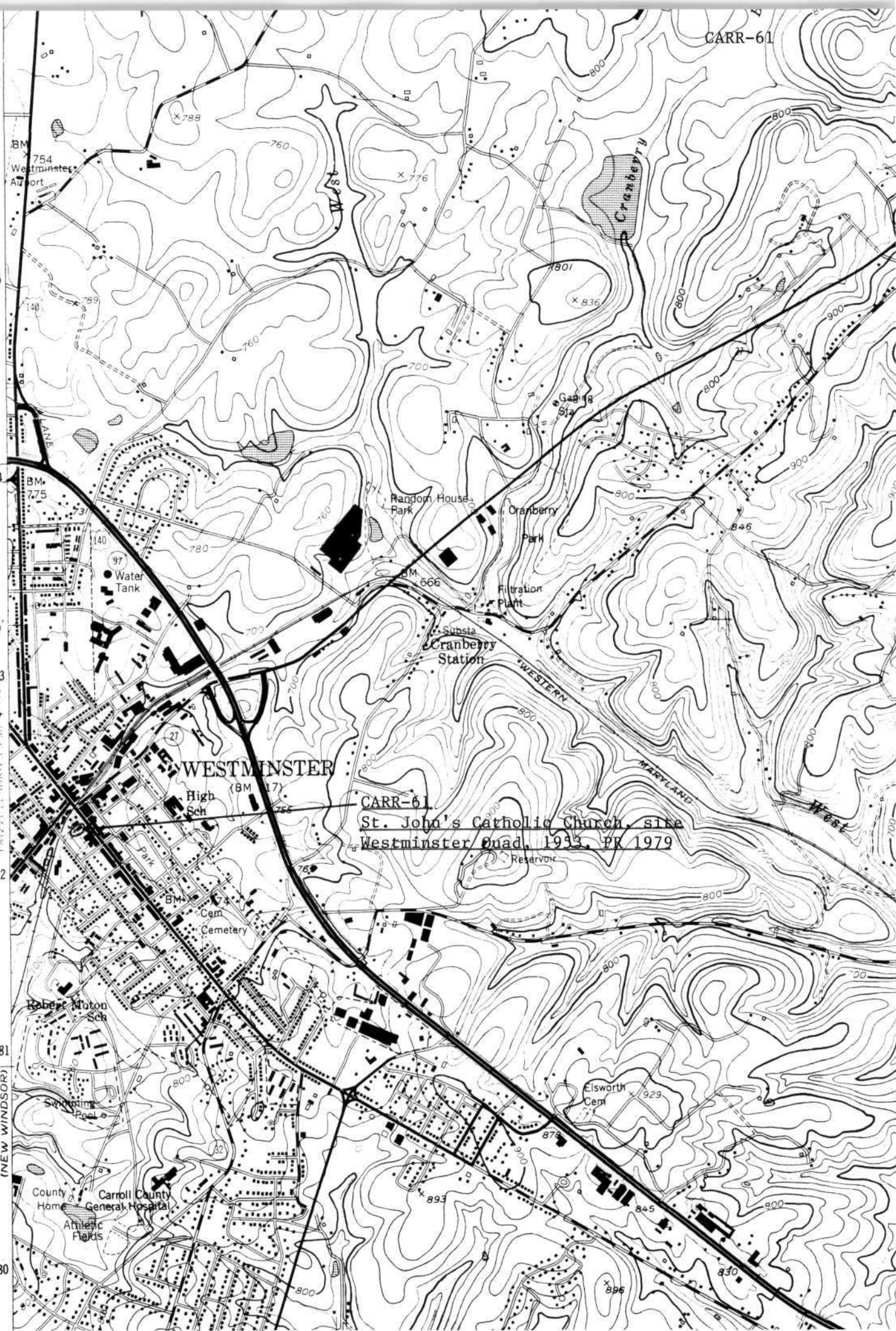
4382

4381

4380

5563 II SE  
(NEW WINDSOR)

TANEY TOWN II ME  
181224 EL 10000 3 9 30



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St. John's Catholic Church, site  
Westminster Quad, 1933, PR 1979

Middleburg District: Mount Union; Middleburg; Bruceville; Franklin; Keysville; Double Pipe Creek.

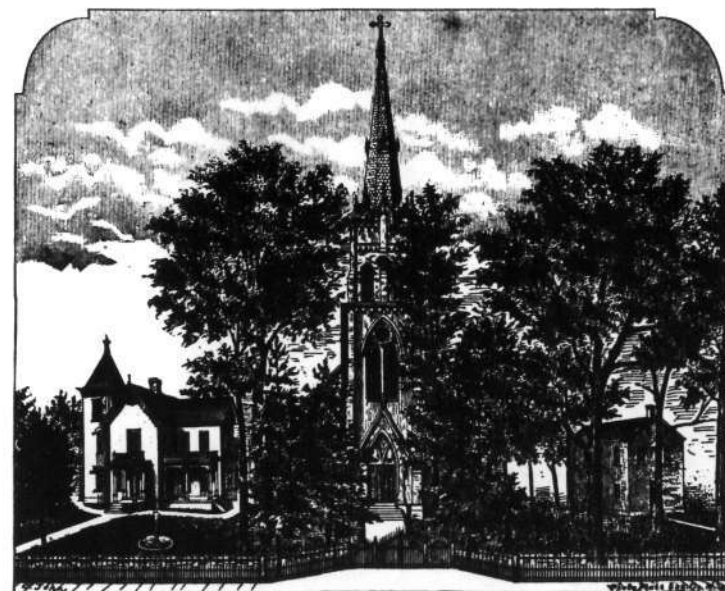
New Windsor District: New Windsor, numbers 1 and 2; Park Hall; Baile's; Springdale; Wakefield; Mount Vernon.

(Note: Union Bridge, Mount Airy, and Berrett districts did not exist as separate districts in the 1880s.)

The public school teachers formed the Carroll County Teachers' Association in December 1868 to protect their rights.<sup>21</sup> A statement from an 1870 notice of an association meeting could just as well have been written in 1970: "The salaries are inadequate and not up to the scholarship of the age—How long shall this continue will depend altogether upon our Teachers."<sup>22</sup> Teachers' salaries did increase generally over the years, but they were also subject to periodic decreases.

### 3. Private Schools and Colleges

Too numerous to mention in their entirety are the private schools which continued to flourish in the late nineteenth century. Many existed for only a short while, but some of the ones which endured longer are Sunnyside Female Select School, near Uniontown, est. 1881; Springfield Institute, Sykesville, est. 1878; Springfield Academy, est. 1858 and continuing in the basement of the Presbyterian Church of Sykesville until 1883; Boarding and Day School of Mrs. A. G. Davis, Mount Airy; and J. P. Garner's Select School near Linwood.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PARSONAGE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL HOUSE.

St. John's Catholic Church on Main Street in Westminster provided education primarily for its congregation. The history of its early school was described in its centennial year commemorative pamphlet as follows:<sup>23</sup>

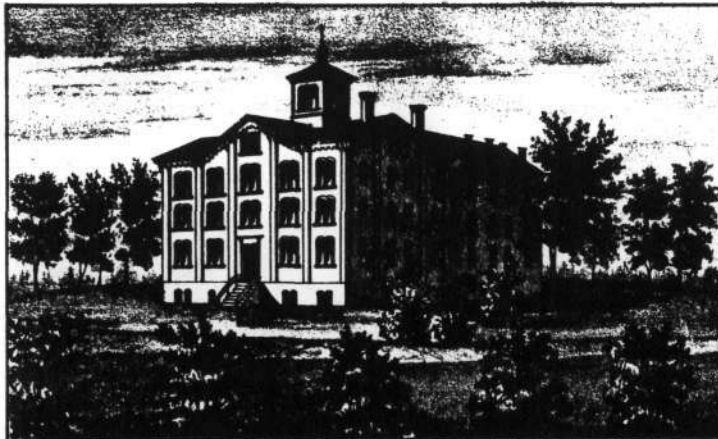
The Sacristy of the old brick Church was used as a school from 1866 to 1872 with Mr. Charles Eckenrode and Miss Dulaney as teachers. In 1872, the old Church was torn down. The bricks were used for the new two-room school. Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley blessed the new building. Mr. McGirr and Jennie Golden were the teachers. . . .

Father Cassidy came in 1892. He immediately set

about enlarging the school to four rooms. In September 1898, he succeeded in getting the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the school. On September 19, two Sisters began school with 92 pupils. Before long, this number increased to 100.

According to an advertisement in the *Democratic Advocate* of October 1876, the school offered "Classics and Mathematics" with "Particular attention paid to English Composition." A special feature was "a Night School for young men . . . open 7 to 9 P.M. on Monday and Thursday of each week beginning October 16th, 1876." Numerous scholarships were available to students at St. John's and at such other local institutions as Manchester Academy and Western Maryland College.<sup>24</sup>

Known as the first co-educational college south of the Mason and Dixon Line, Western Maryland College was



WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE, WESTMINSTER MD.

incorporated by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1868 with the objective of providing first class education to both men and women regardless of religious affiliation. The college, the brainstorm of Fayette Buell, teacher at the Male and Female Collegiate School in Westminster, received its first financial support from John Smith and Isaac P. Baile. Shortly thereafter the Board of Trustees, which had close ties with the Methodist Protestant Church, purchased the college for \$22,000.

"Old Main," begun before the college was chartered, provided living facilities and classrooms for the first student body and every one thereafter until its demolition in the 1940s. "Old Main" was "a combination of Italian and Romanesque style of architecture . . . large, rough, and massive in appearance . . . of brick on a solid stone foundation 66 ft. by 64 ft. and . . . five stories high."<sup>25</sup> Little Baker Chapel, Alumni Hall, and the President's house were constructed before the turn of the century. College functions were held both in "Old Main" and in the Odd Fellow's Hall in downtown Westminster.

Westminster Seminary was established on grounds adjacent to the college in 1882 by Thomas Hamilton Lewis as the School of Theology. The seminary was founded largely because many of Western Maryland's students wished to prepare for careers in the ministry.

New Windsor College, which consistently had more financial difficulties than Western Maryland College, was sold in 1876 to the Calvert Educational Society of Carroll County. L.B.W. Shryock, followed by George H. Birnie, led the school until 1878, when it was again