Site: M:26/10/02

Rockville Academy

Built: 1890

103 South Adams Street

Architect/ Builder:
Edwin M. West

Replacement of earlier form

Private

For over a century the Rockville Academy educated the young men of Montgomery County. The original building of 1812 was replaced by the present brick 2-1/2 story Queen Anne structure in 1890. Since the Academy's closing after World War I, the building has housed a variety of educational uses. Preservation of the Academy and its 2-1/2 acres of treed lawn was the product of both public and private efforts.

Survey No. M:26/10/2

Magi No. 1650182611

DOE ___yes ✓ no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

NR eligible ✓ yes ___ no
contrib. element in H.D. ✓
Replaces earlier M:26/10/2

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Rockville Academy

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: 103 South Adams Street ___ not for publication

city, town: Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district: 8

state: Maryland county: Montgomery (RV Planning Area 1)

3. Classification

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

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

name: Edward L. and L.H. Halpern

street & number: 8901 Iron Gate Court telephone no.: 299-2877

city, town: Potomac state and zip code: Maryland 20854

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Montgomery Co. Land Records liber Plat 13909

street & number: Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 5572 548

city, town: Rockville state: Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title: National Register of Historic Places (1974)

date: City of Rockville Historic District ✓ federal ✓ state ✓ county ✓ local

repository for survey records: City of Rockville Planning Department

city, town: Rockville state: Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/10/2

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

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

The subject structure faces east on South Adams Street at the intersection of West Jefferson, bordered on the south by Church Street, a "paper" street in the form of a lane to a private residence and the rear parking lot. The building is well set back from all streets, centered on an approximately 2-1/2 acre site with an ascending east-west elevation. Although the property has historically been the "Rockville Academy Grounds", in fact there are now three owners. The Rockville Methodist Church, former owner of the property, retained ownership of a 33,272 square foot strip along the west border for a paved parking lot. A 29,270 sq. ft. parcel carved out of the middle, which includes the structure, is owned by a local businessman. The east front and south ell of land consisting of 1.06 acres was purchased through Project Open Space by the City of Rockville. The grounds are shaded by ancient oaks, spruce and tulip poplars. Banks of forsythia line the south driveway, and other old shrubs and plantings are scattered about the property. A circular concrete walkway provides pedestrian access from West Jefferson. Automobile access is by driveway (in Church Street right-of-way) from South Adams at the south corner of the property, and from West Jefferson at the west corner of the property. Automobile parking is at the rear of the building and along the west property line.

This roughly "L"-shaped, common-bond, brick 2-1/2 story Queen Anne structure rests on a random-coursed fieldstone foundation, and has a sheet tin cross-gable roof, standing seam on the south wing and tower, flat seamed on the north. A square three-story tower with a pyramidal hipped roof located at the join of the ell on the east facade serves as the entry. There are two interior brick corbelled chimneys, one at the south end and one at the west end. Wood fish-scale shingles infill gable ends and sheath the third story of the tower.

This building was designed in a period Queen Anne style for use as a school. It replaced an 1812 rectangular brick federal style school which stood in the same position as the north wing, and added a south wing and tower. The north fenestration was changed from five bays to four, evidence that the old structure was razed and sound materials reused in the present building as documentation suggests. However, it is likely that only the north, east and west walls were actually rebuilt and the old foundation and south exterior wall is incorporated into the current building, as evidenced by the 2-1/2 ft. wide interior wall. A center gable was added to the north facade and round windows inserted in the gables. The evenly spaced windows were enlarged and changed from 9/6 double sashes in rectangular openings to 2/2 sashes

continued on attachment 7.1

set into arched window openings. The new south wing is offset from the old structure with the entry tower projecting from the juncture of the the two buildings, thereby creating the undulating facade typical of Queen Anne structures.

The east (front) five-bay facade consists of the the 2-bay south wing, one bay tower, and two-bay front-facing gabled end of the north wing. The south wing has one window in each bay, first and second story. The tower is accessed by six wooden steps with plain stick-and-rail balustrade which is continued on the porch. The porch is sheltered by a flat-roofed portico in the form of a massive architrave supported by two square columns at the front and half columns at the facade. The wood panel exterior door is flanked by wood half-panels with two side lights above. A rectangular one-light transom flanked by square lights surmounts the door and side lights. The tower's second story has one window. The tower's third story is clad with fish-scale shingles and has a skirt roof at the base. One rectangular smaller window is in this story.

The north wing is the location of the original 1812 Academy building. The east gable end of the north wing has a four-light round window in the fish-scale shingled gable with a shingled skirt roof separating gable from second story. One window is in each of the two bays on the first and second stories.

The four-bay north facade was original Academy front. A central four-light round window is in the gable. One window is in each of the four bays on the first and second story.

The west end of the north wing is unrelieved except for a four-light round window in the central gable which is blocked by the brick chimney directly behind it. The two-bay south side of the wing has a wood panel exterior door with an arched two-pane overlight in the west bay, second story, accessed by a flight of modern wooden stairs. There is one window in the east bay. The first story has one window in the west bay, located in a covered passageway to an exterior door in the north bay of the infill addition.

The west (rear) facade is composed of the south wing with a one-story shed-roofed addition clad with German siding filling the ell. The three-bay west facade of the south wing has one window in each bay, second story. The addition is unrelieved.

The south facade is dominated by the gable end of the south wing. There is a four-light round window in the gable, blocked by the brick chimney which runs behind it. There is one window set in a rectangular opening near the west corner of the first story, a later addition as it is not shown in pictures of the school before 1900.

Description (continued) : Rockville Academy

Interior

The interior is spare and utilitarian. In plan, it consists of a center stairhall, formerly opening to a large room in each of the north and south wings. It has been subdivided through the years, most recently to create a dental office with reception area and treatment rooms on the first floor, south. The north wing's second story, originally one large room, now has a narrow hallway on the south side leading to three smaller rooms and the exterior staircase at the west end. Original features include narrow beaded wainscotting protecting the lower portion of the walls, stairway with newel posts incised with a floral motif, mouldings, and doors.

There is a cellar under the south wing which is used for storage and utilities. At least one of the windows removed from the building is stored here. The north stairwell wall is made from reused or scrap brick - unmatched colors, broken and irregularly shaped.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/10/2

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

Specific dates First 1812-1890(demolished) Present - 1890 **Builder/Architect** Edwin M. West (B/A)

check: Applicable Criteria: ✓ A __ B ✓ C __ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __ A __ B __ C __ D __ E __ F __ G

Level of Significance: __ national ✓ state ✓ local

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

Significance

For over one hundred years the Rockville Academy educated the young men of Montgomery County, earning a reputation as the seat of learning for future leaders. The original building of 1812 was replaced by the present structure in 1890. The building has housed a variety of uses in the last 50 years, and the preservation of the structure and its 2-1/2 acres of treed lawn was the product of both public and private efforts.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:
1. Historic context theme(s): 6 - Social, Educational, Cultural.
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s):
4. Resource type: Educational structure

History and Support

In 1805 the need for educational facilities in Montgomery County prompted the Maryland General Assembly to appoint seven of the County's leaders to act as a commission and to raise (by lottery sales) $2,500 for the purchase of a school house lot and a fire engine. 1/ The Rockville Academy charter of 1809 authorized its trustees to hire teachers "to instruct students and scholars in the vernacular and learned languages and such sciences and branches of education as they shall think proper."2/ The first two Principals of the Academy were Presbyterians ministers. John Breckenridge was followed by Rev. Samuel Martin, during whose tenure the Academy building was constructed. 3/

Lot 16 of the original Town of Rockville was purchased in June, 1812; lots 14,15,&17 were added in 1813, for a total area of 2.5 acres. 4/ This site was a grassy, treed knoll at the western limits of the original Town, where one of the original Town boundary stones still

continued on attachment 8.1

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Academy

exists. The National Intelligencer newspaper announced the reception of students as of Oct. 12, 1812 with tuition at 10 a year and added that "good board including washing and lodging can be procured for 30". The school was completed by July 20, 1813, when the newspaper advised that "there is room for several students in the Classical Department for whom good board in genteel families for moderate terms can be procured."

The original building faced north on Jefferson Street. Nineteenth century photographs owned by the Montgomery County Historical Society show the brick building of Federal Style. (Attachment 8.7) It was five bays long with interior chimneys at either end. There were 9/6 double hung, shuttered windows, and a three light transom decorating the west end entry, under a bracketed canopy.

The building contained only classrooms; the students boarded with teachers or local families. Tavern owner Iver Campbell announced in the Rockville Courier of September 27, 1819 that he had bought the house adjacent to his tavern for a boarding house, and "Persons from the County sending children to the Academy may have them accommodated at this house...it has no connection with the Tavern". Since the teacher's pay was based on the number of pupils in his department, augmented by the number he could board, teacher turnover was rapid when student numbers decreased.

The Academy also received money from the State to cover the Principal's salary and to provide for the education of "free shcolars" admitted by competitive examination. The school was organized into two departments, Classical and English, but the records of the Trustees indicate the "Pupils intended for classical education are to be preferred to others". 5/ Each department could accommodate 30-35 pupils. In addition to reading, writing, geography and languages, navigation, surveying and other sciences were taught. In 1840 the Trustees sought applications for a teacher who could "teach the West Point system of mathemetics". Prohibitions against the use of "ardent spirits" and gambling were published, and both students and teachers were disciplined or dismissed for drunkenness and/or disorderly conduct. 6/ By the mid-19th century the Rockville Academy and its contemporary in Brookeville were the primary educational institutions for young County men.

The Rockville Academy was non-denominational but received the support and much of its faculty from the several established Protestant congregations in Rockville. Both Joseph Jones, the first Baptist pastor in Rockville, and William McClenahan, the leader of the Disciples of Christ group, taught at the Academy during its first 30 years. Rev. John Mines, pastor of the Presbyterian congregations at Bethesda and

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Academy

Rockville, lived at "Rose Hill" nearby and was associated with the Academy for many years.

The records of the Academy document disruptions caused by the Civil War and changes resulting from the introduction of a free public school system. During the War years, several of the young teachers resigned their positions in search of greater adventure. Cooke Luckett, a popular young teacher, resigned to join the Confederate Cavalry; after sustaining an injury he returned to Rockville, but for several years operated a school for girls before his return to the Academy as teacher/principal for 15 years. The home he built in 1881 lies directly opposite the Academy site.

The Academy's fortunes reached a low point in the 1870s, when only 20 pupils were enrolled. At a salary of $500 a year the teacher/principal (sometimes only one) complained. At the time of his resignation in 1876, L.B. Allen informed the Trustees that"the number of pupils present is not sufficient to support the teacher in a becoming manner." By 1882 the student body had increased to 40, although eight of them only attended during the winter season. Mr. Luckett's Report of 1882 is attached as it appears in the Montgomery County Sentinel along with the Executive Committee report extolling the Academy and "The grounds...with the majestic ancient oaks and neatly mown lawn make the Academy grounds a charming resort and an ornament to the town." (Attachment 8.8)

The death of planter Julius West in 1860 had a far-reaching effect on the financial prospects of the Rockville Academy. In his Will, the Academy was named to receive the proceeds of his large estate after the death of his wife. Sarah West McCahill relinquished her life estate interest to the Trustees in 1887, and the Trustees immediately began planning for the replacement of their 75 year old building. 7/

Second Building: 1890 - Present

The Trustees sold the first 38 acre parcel of the West farm to Judge John Vinson in 1888. That summer the trustees discussed the purchase of the nearly completed, four-floor hotel site on Darnestown Road. This building was available due to the bankruptcy of its builder, and its 40 rooms, larger porches and five acre grounds could be purchased for $6,000. The Trustees decided against the purchase of this building, which then became the Woodlawn Hotel and is today part of Chestnut Lodge Hospital. (See MHT Site M:26/10/4)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Academy

In the spring of 1889 the remaining 183 acres of the West farm were sold to Reuben Dietrick and Henry Copp for their development "West End Park". The sale was brokered by former Academy principal Cooke Luckett, who had found the booming Rockville real estate market more lucrative than teaching.

In May 1889 Jackson Gott, a prominent Baltimore architect, met with the Trustees who asked Gott to prepare plans for a new Academy building at the Jefferson Street site. 8/ When Mr. Gott's plans were completed, the Montgomery County Sentinel reported that the building would be "60 X 90 and nearly surrounded by porches of an elevation with the first story which is 9 feet high. It will contain 40 rooms and all modern improvements". 9/ The building would be large enough to house the students, and would cost upwards of $15,000.

However, again the Trustees changed their minds, and Mr. Gott's design was not used. Fourteen months after Mr. Gott's visit, the Trustees solicited bids from four Rockville builders: Messrs Thomas C. Groomes, R.W. Pumphrey, James Edmonston, and Edwin M. West. The Trustees hoped to use some of the existing 1812 building, with alterations and additions, for a less costly building.

However, the plan adopted by the Trustees on July 26, 1890, as submitted by Edwin West, included the demolition of the old building. 10/ Mr. West's design called for changing the entry facade to face the newly cut through Adams Street. A tower entry leading to an eight foot wide hall would divide the main block from a 20 X 17 "new addition". 11/

Specifications for materials to be used on the building, and the price, are contained in the Trustee minutes of September 18, 1890. These specifications call for the razing of the old building and the reuse of old materials that were "sound and free of defects". Both the Trustee records and the published accounts of the new building refer to the structure in terms of "a main building" and "a new addition", when, in fact, the entire building was to be a new one.

An examination of the building shows that the north 20 X 40 foot wing (the so-called main building) occupies the site of the original 1812 structure. No new cellar was dug underneath this section, and at least one wall of the old structure/or the reuse of the old brick is evident in the basement stairwell. The rebuilding of the classroom block to the same dimensions of the old building would also account for the somewhat awkward arrangement of the east (front) facade, where the end gable of the block crowds the three story entry tower, and where the tower projects eight feet from the wall plane on the left side, but only four feet on the right/main block side.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Academy

Although the new Academy building was designed as a utilitarian structure, Mr. West's charge of $3,575 was modest for a brick building over a stone foundation. Like his other residential and church buildings, Mr. West provided decorative interest with contrasting materials of brick, stone, tin roofing and shaped shingling. The pedimented gables are filled with "fish-scale" shingling surrounding centered occular windows. These windows are for display only, being backed by the chimney flues for the south and west side chimneys. Segmental arches of gauged brick top the large two-over-two shuttered windows elsewhere. The three story entry tower with its raised porch completes the design.

Students transferred from rented classrooms at the Rockville Fairgrounds to the new Academy building in January, 1891. The building received minor alterations in 1897 when "female scholars" able to perform sixth grade work were admitted to the Academy. Later a frame addition and back steps were added: a frame gymnasium was added in 1912, but has been demolished.

The architect Jackson Gott was again consulted in 1895 when the trustees proposed the erection of a home for the principal. Instead the Academy held the mortgage for the house purchased by William Pinckney Mason at (now) 217 West Montgomery Avenue. Mr. Mason, Principal from 1890-1910, boarded students in his large home. The Minute Books record during this period, that Mr. Mason be advised "to keep his students in the house after night", after complaints from neighbors were received at the school. 12/

The Rockville Academy maintained its reputation for scholarship as it celebrated its first 100 years, but by 1916 a combination of easy access to larger public and private schools and the State's decision to cease financial subsidies hurt this small school. Thereafter, the Trustees rented the building to a variety of educational entities over the next 30 years, in accordance with the provisions of Julius West's will. From the end of World War I until 1935 the building housed the first three grades of Rockville's public elementary school. It was later used to house the collection of the privately owned Library Association and as a nursery school. 13/

Until its sale to the Rockville United Methodist Church in 1966 the property remained in the hands of the Trustees, who now use their endowments to finance scholarships at other local schools. Several of the current Trustees are descended from family members who provided such service in the past, and along with many Rockville citizens attended the school for their primary educations during the 1920s and 30s when it was a public school.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Academy

The preservation of the building and its surrounding open space was accomplished by the joint efforts of neighborhood and preservation groups, with Federal and local government grants and private rehabilitation funds. 14/ The much deteriorated and overgrown building was almost hidden from view when purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Edward Halpern in 1980. Since that time it has been refurbished and adapted for use as office space.

Footnotes:

1. The Lottery was still being held in 1812 when the Commissioners were Richard Anderson, Upton Beall, Honore Martin, and Solomon Holland.
2. William Kilty, compliler, Laws of Maryland, Volume 4, Chapter 152, Article 5, November, 1809.
3. The National Intelligencer advertised for students/teachers and listed the principals April 16, 1812 and August 29, 1812.
4. Montgomery County Land Records, - to Trustees from the Williams family P/632 (1812) and Q/277 (1813).
5. Trustees Meeting, July 23, 1832. The Record Books of the Trustees of the Academy were in three volumes. Volume I (1810-1866) is missing, but its entries were abstracted by school historian Guy Jewell many years ago. Volumes II (1866-1882) and III (1882-1971) are extant. These handwritten records were recently donated to the Montgomery County Historical Society and were used for this history.
6. Op. Cit. Records for years 1836-1840.
7. Montgomery County Will Records, JWL 1/55 (probated 1860). Land Records JA 6/71 (1887).
8. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 31, 1889, reported Mr. Gott's tour of the Avcademy grounds and meeting with the building committee.
9. Op. Cit. August 23, 1889.
10. The Sentinel of July 25, 1890 reported that "the present building will be allowed to stand and a large and handsome addition built to it". Even the Academy records within the specifications as filed under the September 11, 1890 entry and calling for the taking down of the old wall, the specifications repeatedly refer to the tower and wing as "new addition" although the whole building would be new if all walls were demolished.
11. Minutes,Op. Cit.
12. Volume III of the Trustees Records - September 18, 1893.
13. The various uses of the building prior to its 1966 sale are found in local histories and newspapers. Rockville Gazette series "A piece of Cake" appeared November 27, December 4, and December 11, 1985 and included interviews and memoirs of building occupants and material on its rehabilitation and adaptation.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Academy

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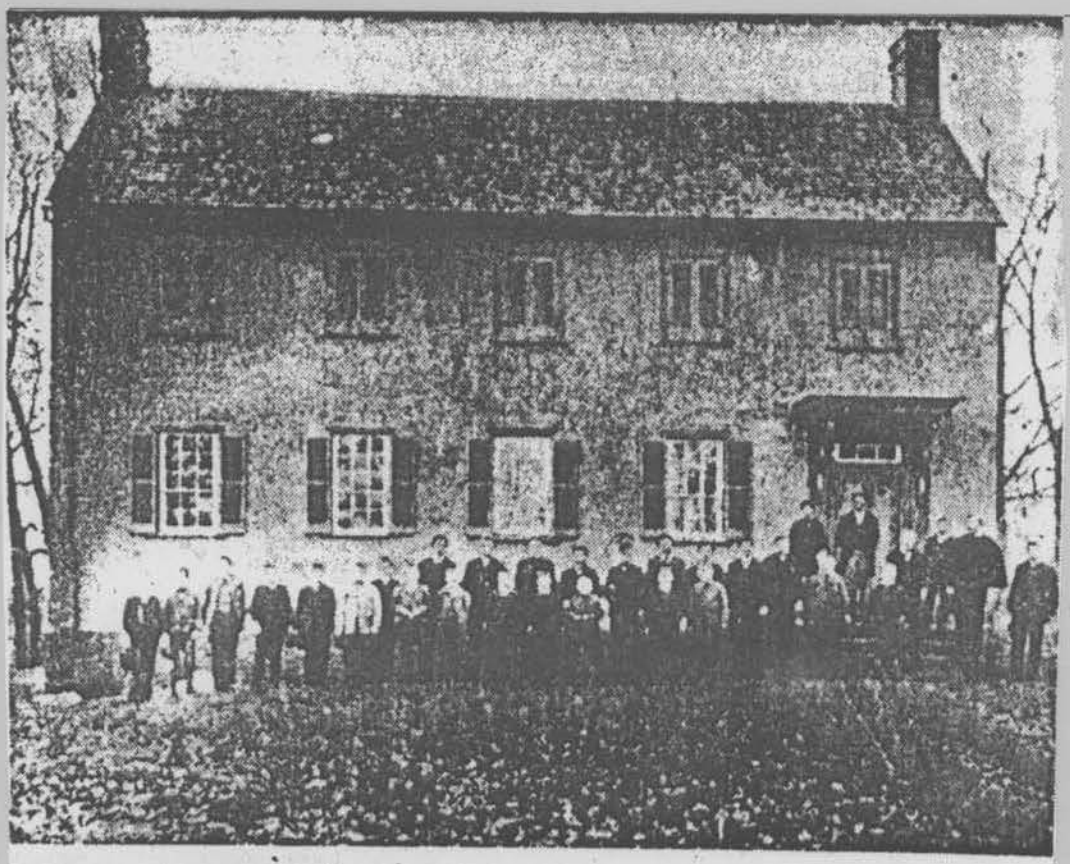
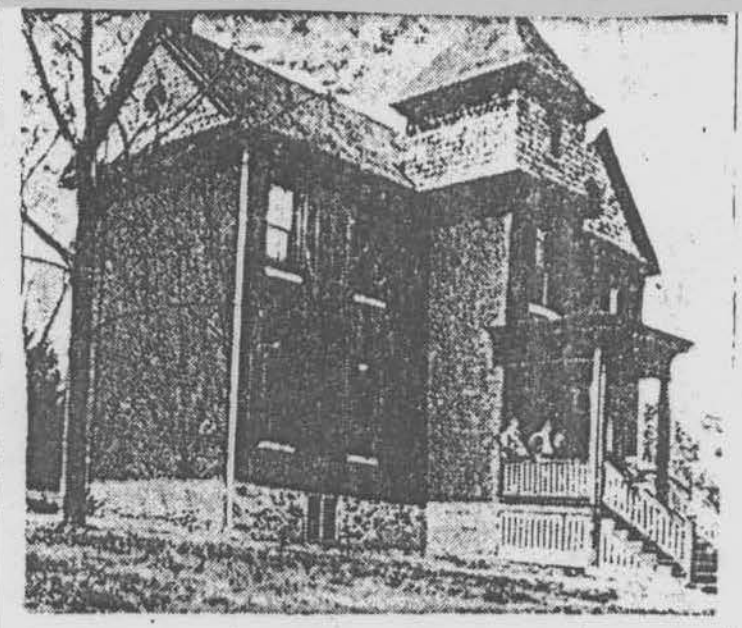
14. In 1980 the City of Rockville received an Open Space Grant to purchase one acre of the north and east side grounds of the Academy. This is now part of the City Parks system.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Academy



Rockville Academy ca. 1881 - (1812 Building)
Courtesy of the Montgomery County Historical Society



Rockville Academy ca. 1906 (1890 Building),
Courtesy of the Montgomery County Historical Soc.

Rockville Academy.

On Monday the Board of Trustees of the Rockville Academy held a meeting. Judge Bouic, Major England, and Messrs. Carter, Prettyman and Talbott present.

Mr. Luckett's annual report, being the 73rd for the institution, was presented and was as follows:

ROCKVILLE, MD., July 3rd, 1882.

To the Board of Trustees of the Rockville Academy.

Gentlemen:—The 73rd Annual Session of the Rockville Academy, closed on Friday the 30th ulto. The whole number of pupils upon the Rolls was 40; of this number, there were 8 who attended for 3 or 4 months in winter, and resumed their agricultural pursuits at the opening of Spring. The remaining *thirty-two* pupils may then be considered the *regular students for the full scholastic year*, and are thus classified, viz: Junior Class, 10; Intermediate, 12; Senior, 10; total 32, of which the Junior Class had none in the Classical Department; the Intermediate, had 3, and the Senior had 7, making 10 in the Classical Department. The following *State Students* attended: Eustace Ansley, John Bogley, Walter Carroll, Walter Dawson, Albert Fields, LeDoux Maddox, Frank Rabbitt, Hallie Spencer, James Veirs, George Watkins, William White and Canby Willson. At this time there are *three* vacancies created by the withdrawal of Eustace Ansley, Hallie Spencer and Canby Willson.

For the session 1879-80; no medal was awarded, because *no boy* was sufficiently proficient in *all* his classes to merit a medal, at the high standard, 80. For 1880-81, *one* medal was awarded; and it is a note-worthy fact that at the examition of the session just closed, *three medals* were awarded, one in each class. Morever, the *improvement* in all *classes* at this *examination* was *marked*. The "West Medal" was awarded to John Saunders; the Intermediate Medal to Walter C. Carroll; the Junior Medal, to Dinwiddie J. Luckett, all these boys having attained to the standard in each one of their respective classes. It is not unbecoming that I should feel and express an honest pride in these labors; in the manner and matter of their performance; in the amount actually achieved, and the results to be hoped for, from their achievement. The course of study

Junior Class.—Dictionary, Scholar's Companion, Dictation, 5th Reader, U. S. History, English Grammar, Descriptive Geography and Arithmetic.

Intermediate.—Dictionary, Scholar's Companion, Rhetoric, Elocution, General History, Physical Geography, Elementary Algebra and University Arithmetic.

Senior.—Natural Philosophy, Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, Mental and Moral Philosophy, Bourdon, Legendre, Book-Keeping and review of principles of Arithmetic.

In addition to the above, the Classical course embraces, Latin, Greek, French and German.

The Academy Grounds with the handsome hedge and luxuriant growth of grass, present the appearance of a village park, and furnish an attractive retreat to the summer sojourners. The Academy building is in excellent condition and has sustained no injury at the hands of the boys. Respectfully,

COOKE D. LUCKETT, Prin.

After remarks by Judge Bouic and Mr. Prettyman the report was adopted. The report of the executive committee which was adopted, was:

"The Executive Committee of the Trustees of Rockville Academy, respectfully report—That the Academy building is in excellent condition needing no repairs except the front steps and platform. The grounds are in beautiful order and the trees and hedge planted within the last four years are growing finely, and with the majestic ancient oaks and the neatly mown lawn, make the Academy grounds a charming resort and an ornament to the town. It is very creditable to the Principal and to the students of the Academy, that the building, furniture and grounds are kept in such good conditon, and proves that the young gentlemen appreciate the efforts of the Trustees to beautify and adorn their play grounds and building."

E. B. PRETTYMAN,
WM. VEIRS BOUIC,
Executive Committee.

Upon motion of Judge Bouic, Mr. C. D. Luckett was re-elected principal for the ensuing year.

Mr. Talbott was elected secretary of the board; he was also appointed to the Finance Committee in place of Mr. Offutt.

The board adjourned until the first Monday in August when applications for scholarships will be considered and vacancies filled.

Montgomery County Sentinel - 1882

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : Rockville Academy
Bulletin of the Bureau of Education NO.32, 1913.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION BULLETIN, 1913, NO. 32 PLATE 7

A. ROCKVILLE ACADEMY.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : Rockville Academy
Records of the Trustees of the Rockville Academy
Volume III, Minutes of September 11, 1890.

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ber of the Board of Trustees of Rockville Academy in the place of Robert W. Carter, deceased.
On motion of Mr. W. Bouic Jr. seconded by Hon. John T. Pinson, it was resolved that the Board of Trustees rent the old school house at the Fair Ground, for the purpose of holding the sessions of the Academy during the time the new building for said Academy is being erected. Provided same can be rented for the sum of $5.00 per month.
On motion of Mr. Bouic seconded by Hon. John T. Pinson the Chair was directed to appoint a committee of three to draft suitable resolutions in reference to the death of Mr. Robert W. Carter.
The Chair appointed Messrs. Bouic, Pittman and Talbott.
The Building Committee then submitted the result of their negotiations with Mr. West in reference to erecting a new Academy building, in writing, which is as follows.

Specifications

For a brick building to be built in the Town of Rockville for the Trustees of the Rockville Academy.
Old building to be torn down and old material to go to the contractor. All old material that is sound and free from defects may be used in construction of new building.
[illegible]

the entire new addition, and build all foundation walls of stone, laid in good lime and sand mortar to heights as per drawings.
All brick walls to be laid in good lime and sand mortar and all walls exposed to weather to be faced with good hard burned red brick.

Framing

First and second floors of joists, in main building to be 2x12 Va. pine and in wing to be 2x12 Va. pine, placed 16 inches from centers. Ceiling joists 2x8 placed 16 inches from centers, rafters to be 2x6, placed two feet from centers.
Roof to be covered with No. 1. cypress shingles (hearts). Gables and sides of tower to be shingled with round butt No. 1. cap shingles as per drawings.
Plastering to be three coat work, last coat to be smooth white.
Paint roof with two coats of good mineral paint, side shingles to be stained with Cabots creosote stain, all other outside woodwork to be painted with three coats of lead and oil paint.
Flooring throughout to be No. 1. Ga. pine 7/8 of an inch thick.
All windows and doors to be trimmed inside with 4½ inch band moulding and stained cherry and to have two coats of hard oil finish.
All posts to have two rows of bridging.
All doors and windows to be as per drawing, windows on first and second floors to have 1 3/8 inch outside
[illegible]

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : Rockville Academy
Records of the Trustees of the Rockville Academy
Volume III, Minutes of September 11, 1890 (Con't).

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116 blinds, the first story windows to be provided with bronzed iron sash locks (Yale patent), and all sash to be provided with sash lifts to match.
All doors to be furnished with good bronze finished mortised locks, with black knobs, except outside doors which will have bronze furniture.
Roof to be provided with valleys and necessary down spouts to carry off the water.
All window and door sills to be of stone.
All the rooms and bath halls to be wainscoted four feet, with 1st pine, finished in hard oil with natural caps.
Windows in first and second stories to be hung with weights and cord (Silver & Son).
Fire places in each room.
All work to be completed and delivered on November 1st, 1890.
Price to be $3570.00.
To be paid in three equal instalments.
1st When foundation is completed and most material on the ground.
2nd When building is roofed and closed in.
3rd When building is entirely completed in accordance with contract.

Edwin M. West
Hez. Talbott } For the
C.W. Pattyman } Building Committee

On motion duly seconded the action of Building Committee and

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/10/2

Records of the Board of Trustees of the Rockville Academy, 1810-1976 Newspapers: The National Intelligencer, Montgomery County Sentinel and others; Bowie, Richard J. "Historical Sketch of Rockville Academy" 1870. Montgomery County Historical Society photographs and histories. Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. photographs, files, records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 26,270 square feet

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

As per Plat #13909. Part of the Original Town of Rockville.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Cissel		Judy Christensen, Arch. Description
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	October, 1986
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

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

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

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

PS-2746

M: 26-10-2

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

This form will be replaced

. Name Rockville Academy

. Planning Area/Site Number 26/10
West Montgomery Avenue HD

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 15
Coordinate G-13

4. Address 103 South Adams Street
Rockville, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition Being considered
Status occupied
Accessible yes; restricted
Present use educational
Previous Survey Recording Federal___State___County___Local___
(Title and date:)

National Register-Federal-1975
MNCPPC-County,Local -1976
Rockville Historic District Commission-1974

6. Date 1890

7. Original Owner Trustees of the Rockville Academy

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair

b. altered

c. original site

Description: This L-plan 2½ story 5 bay by 4 bay brick building faces east. sits on a sloping hill and is surrounded by open land. It has fieldstone ndations, common-bonded brick, and small porches on the front and rear elevations.

There is a projecting three-story tower centered on the front elevation; it has fishscale shingling at the third story. It has a cross gable roof covered by raised seam metal roofing. Each of the four gable ends have quartered round windows, and all have fishscale shingling. There are two interior stone chimneys.

A modern frame one-story addition with shed roof and cinderblock foundations has been erected at the south corner of the west elevation.

10. Significance: This building is significant to the social and educational history of both Rockville and Montgomery County. In 1805 the General Assembly alloted funds to purchase the land, and the Rockville Academy was incorporated 4 years later. By 1814 the Academy was in full operation,with John Wade as principal

The Academy educated 30-60 students annually, including 8 indigents supported by the State. The Academy's students, teachers, trustees, and administrators included many prominent in town and County history. By 1889 the Academy had outgrown the original building, and through the gift of Julius West, Jackson Gott was employed to design a new building. The old building was razed and the new one with 40 rooms opened in January 1891.

The Academy closed in 1916, and has since been used as a public and private primary school, public library, and now an alcoholic counseling service.

Date researched and researcher Candy Reed/Architectural Description
Anne W. Cissel Dec. 1978

12. Compiler Eileen McGuckian 13. Date Compiled 2/79

14. Designation Approval___

15. Acreage 2.50 acres

M: 26/10/2
West Montgomery Ave
Historic District
MAGI#

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Rockville Academy

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 103 South Adams Street

CITY, TOWN: Rockville — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Rockville United Methodist Church — Telephone #: 762-2288

STREET & NUMBER: 114 West Montgomery Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Rockville — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3492
Folio #: 505

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE: 1976 — __FEDERAL X STATE X COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:26-10-2

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This L-plan, two and a half story, five bay by four bay Academy building is in poor condition. It sits on a sloping hill near the center of the city of Rockville, facing east.

Built on fieldstone foundations, this common bonded brick building was erected in 1890. There is a wooden porch on the east (front) elevation. Eight steps lead up to the wooden platform. The porch roof is flat and has a denticulated cornice line, two square wooden posts support the roof. There is a wooden balustraded railing on the north and south sides of the porch. The east (front) door has been replaced by a modern metal door. It is flanked by two-light sidelights and surmounted by a three-light transom set into a segmental arch. There are two over two double hung windows with sandstone sills and segmental arches. There is a projecting three story tower centered on the east elevation. At the third story, this tower has fishscale shingling. The Academy has a cross gable roof covered by raised seam metal roofing. The tower has a pyramidal roof. The east, west, north, and south gable ends have quartered round windows and all have fishscale shingling like the tower. There are two interior stone chimneys at the west and south sections of the building. A modern frame one story addition with a shed roof and cinderblock foundations has been erected at the south corner of the west elevation. An exterior wooden single run stairway ascends south to north against the west wall of this west addition to a second story door on the south elevation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:26-10-2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jackson Gott

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rockville Academy's history is importantly interwoven with the County's as well as the City of Rockville's social and economic progress.

At the opening of the 19th century, Rockville's citizens, of necessity, sent their sons outside the County for education, generally to Frederick or Georgetown. But in 1805-6 the need for educational facilities prompted the Maryland General Assembly to appoint seven Commissioners (Upton Beall, Honore Martin, Lewis Beall, Thomas Linsted, Thomas P. Willson, Richard Anderson, and Solomon Holland) to raise $2,500 by lottery for the purchase of a lot to erect a school house, and to purchase a fire engine.

In 1809, a charter was obtained for the Academy, incorporating as "Trustees of the Rockville Academy in Montgomery County", Richard Anderson, John Wooton, Joseph Elgar, and Honore Martin. The Trustees were empowered to hold real and personal property, to appoint professors, teachers and assistants for instructing students and scholars "in the vernacular and learned languages, and such sciences and branches of education as they shall think proper." The Trustees were also instructed to report to the General Assembly on the state of the Academy.

A 2.5 acre site adjoining the original Town of Rockville was obtained,[1] and by 1814 the Academy was in full operation. John Wade was the first principal.

The facilities and reputation of the Academy were the pride of the town. It educated thirty to sixty students annually, including eight indigent pupils whose tuitions were paid by the State. A roster of the names of the Rockville Academy students, its trustees, administrators and teachers over its 100 year history would include most of the prominent names in the history of the town, and many in the County.

The boom years of growth for Rockville in the late 19th century were mirrored in the fortunes and outlook of the Academy. Through the generosity of Julius West who willed 229 acres of prime land to the Academy "in perpetual trust for educational purposes,"[2] the trustees were able to plan a newer, more fashionable building. 183 acres of West's farm were sold to Henry Copp for his subdivision "West End Park", not too far removed from the school. In 1889 the trustees employed noted architect Jackson Gott of Baltimore, to plan a building "as will accommodate a principal and his family and 50 boarders...cost not to exceed $15,000." Mule teams pulled down the chimneys left after the old building was razed. The handsome Italianate building with its 40 rooms and "all modern conveniences" opened for the January term in 1891.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Girls were admitted to the Academy in 1897.[3] In 1912 a frame gymnasium (now destroyed) was added,[4] but by 1916 the Academy was closed as a private school, probably due to lack of demand for private schooling since the public school had been opened (in 1903).

The building lay vacant for a few years, then reopened during World War I to house the first two grades of the Rockville Elementary School. (Grades three through nine attended Rockville Elementary and High School on Monroe Street, since destroyed by fire.) When the new Park Street public school opened in 1935, all elementary grades were transferred there, although the Academy gymnasium continued to be used by students from the high school.

The privately-operated Rockville library moved to the Academy in August of 1937, housing adult, juvenile, and reference collections. A portion of Julius West's trust "for educational purposes" was used to pay librarians' salaries. During the second World War, a nursery school was set up under the Lanham Act, which provided government support for nursery schools to care for children whose mothers were working in the war effort; the school remained for about 20 years. The library was incorporated into the County library system in 1957, but remained in the Academy building until about 1966.

The Rockville Academy was sold by the Trustees to the Rockville Methodist Church in 1966. Since 1973, the building has been leased to an alcoholic counseling service.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, P632 (June 8, 1812); Q277 (March 5, 1813).
2. Will Records of Montgomery County, JWS1/55 (1858).
3. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 24, 1889; August 23, 1889; January 2, 1891.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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Montgomery County Sentinel.

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Montgomery County Historical Society; photographs; unpublished minutes of the Academy Board of Trustees.

Interviews: Rose Miller, librarian 1945-'64.
R. Humphrey Cissel, student 1923-'25.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:26-10-2

See Attachment Sheet A

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.50 Acres

108,900 square feet

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 Town of Rockville
(each lot 66')

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Anne W. Cissel	Candy Reed Arch. Description
ORGANIZATION Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE December 1978
STREET & NUMBER Box 87	TELEPHONE 926-4510
CITY OR TOWN Dickerson	STATE Maryland 20753

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

PS-1108

M: 26-10-2

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

MAGI 1650182611
(#assigned 11/86)

1. Name Rockville Academy

2. Planning Area/Site Number 26/10
West Montgomery Avenue HD

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 15
Coordinate G-13

4. Address 103 South Adams Street
Rockville, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition Being considered
Status occupied
Accessible yes: restricted
Present use educational
Previous Survey Recording Federal___State___County___Local___
(Title and date:)

National Register-Federal-1975
MNCPPC-County, Local -1976
Rockville Historic District Commission-1974

6. Date 1890

7. Original Owner Trustees of the Rockville Academy

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair

b. altered

c. original site

9. Description: This L-plan 2½ story 5 bay by 4 bay brick building faces east. It sits on a sloping hill and is surrounded by open land. It has fieldstone foundations, common-bonded brick, and small porches on the front and rear elevations.

There is a projecting three-story tower centered on the front elevation; it has fishscale shingling at the third story. It has a cross gable roof covered by raised seam metal roofing. Each of the four gable ends have quartered round windows, and all have fishscale shingling. There are two interior stone chimneys.

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11. Date researched and researcher Candy Reed/Architectural Description
Anne W. Cissel Dec. 1978

12. Compiler Eileen McGuckian 13. Date Compiled 2/79

14. Designation Approval___

15. Acreage 2.50 acres

M: 26/10-2
West Montgomery Ave.
Historic District
MAGI#1650182611

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Rockville Academy

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 103 South Adams Street

CITY, TOWN: Rockville — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
_DISTRICT	_PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	_AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	_COMMERCIAL	_PARK
_STRUCTURE	_BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	_ENTERTAINMENT	_RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	_YES: RESTRICTED	_GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
	_BEING CONSIDERED	_YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	_MILITARY	_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Rockville United Methodist Church — Telephone #: 762-2288

STREET & NUMBER: 114 West Montgomery Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Rockville — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3492
Folio #: 505

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE: 1976 — _FEDERAL X STATE X COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:26-10-2

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This L-plan, two and a half story, five bay by four bay Academy building is in poor condition. It sits on a sloping hill near the center of the city of Rockville, facing east.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:26-10-2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jackson Gott

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M:26-10-2

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108,900 square feet

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(each lot 66')

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STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Anne W. Cissel	Candy Reed Arch. Description
ORGANIZATION Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE December 1978
STREET & NUMBER Box 87	TELEPHONE 926-4510
CITY OR TOWN Dickerson	STATE Maryland 20753

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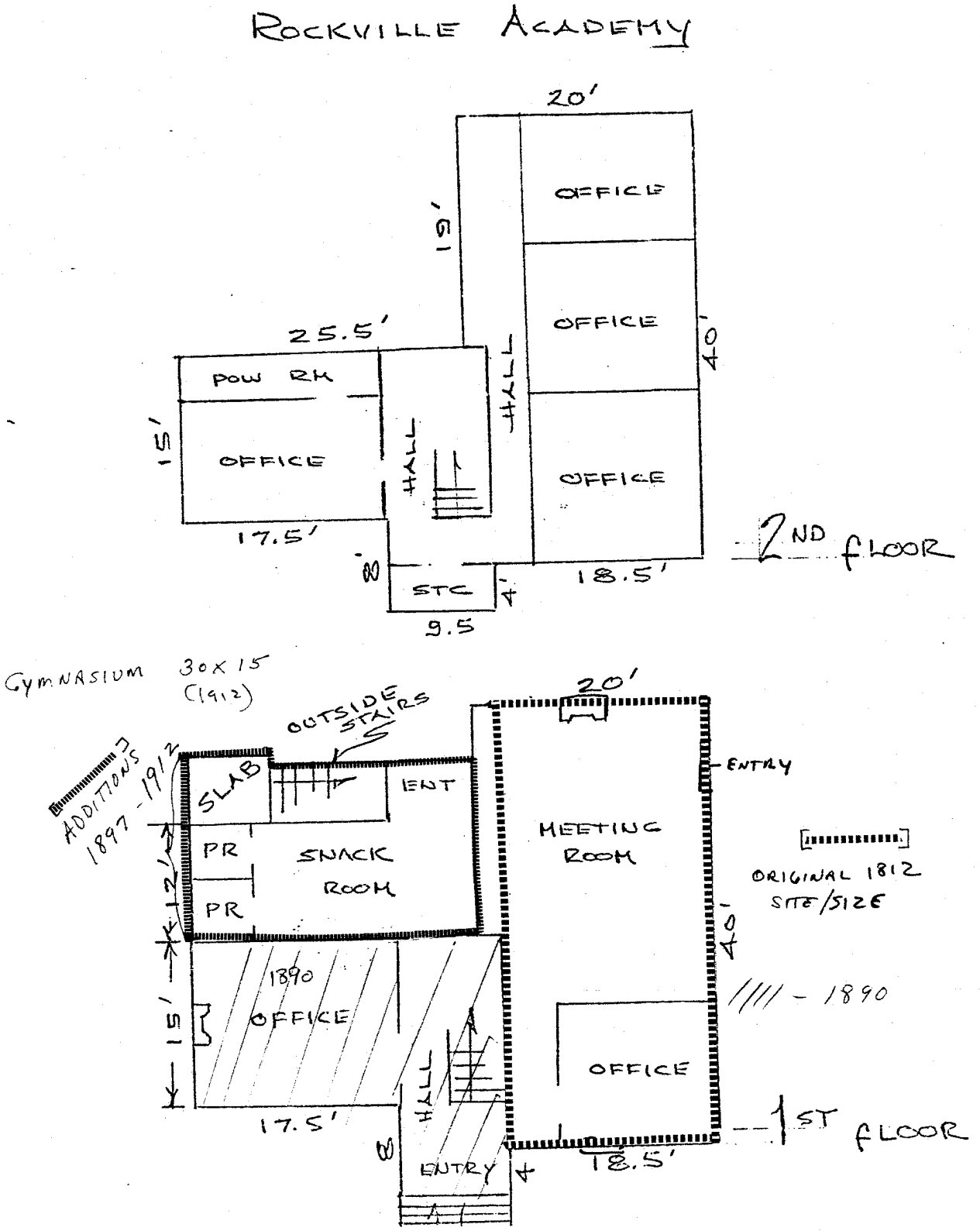
Interviews: Rose Miller, librarian 1945-'64.
R. Humphrey Cissel, student 1923-'25.

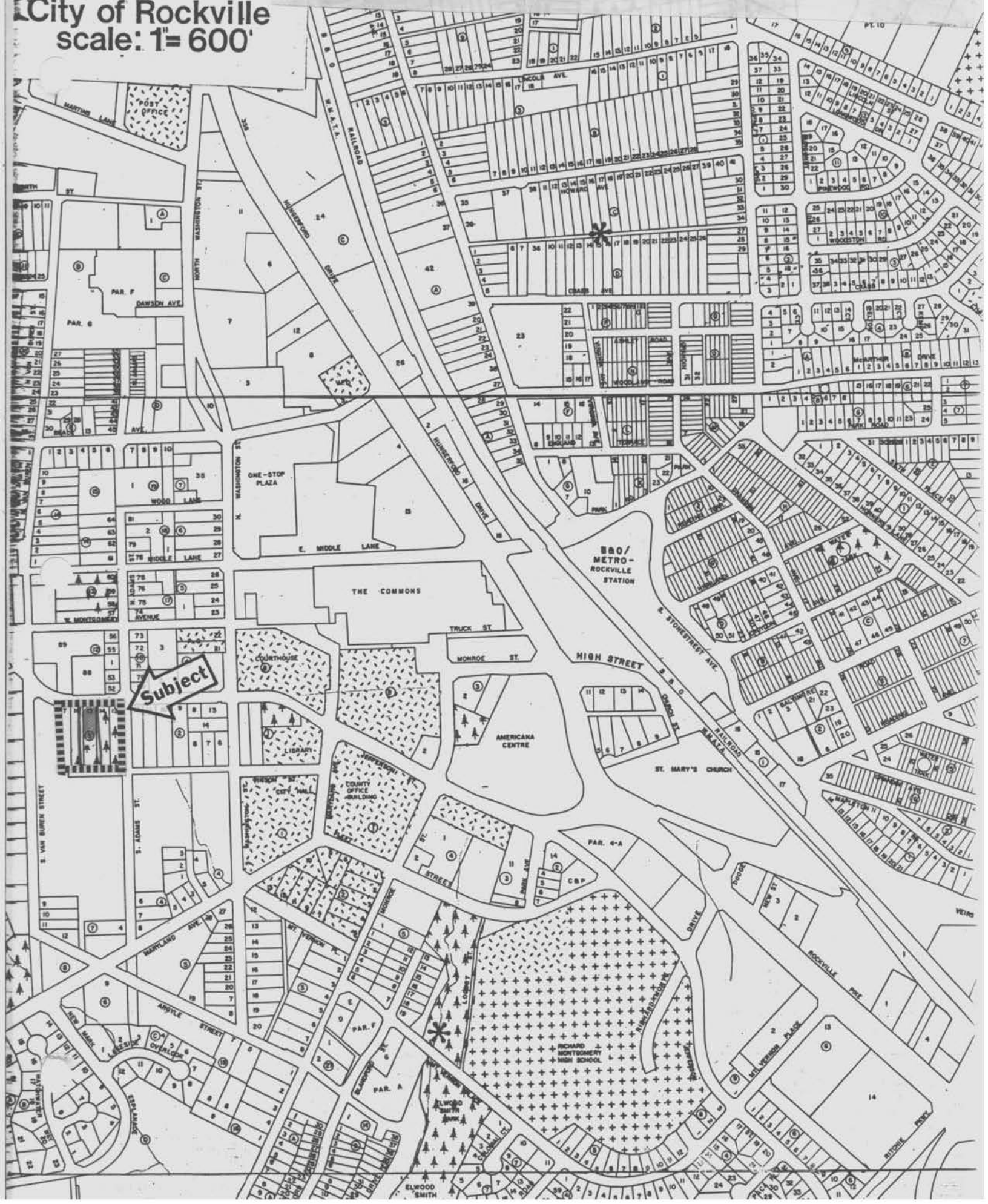
Description (continued) : Rockville Academy
Plan of Rockville Academy building showing structural history.
Anne Cissel, 1987



M:26/10/2 4 Rockville Academy 103 South Adams St.
(Replaces earlier M:26/10/2)

1982

City of Rockville
scale: 1" = 600'



Rockville Academy

H. 26-10-2

103 S ADAMS

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

M:26/10/2
Rockville Academy
103 South Adams St.
Rockville, Md.20850
Dean Evangelista
date:6/1987 elevation: E

10862205

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

M:26/10/2
Rockville Academy
103 South Adams St.
Rockville, Md.20850
Richard Andrews
date: 6/1987 elevation:
NE elevation

#10862706