

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Georgetown Preparatory School and Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

and/or common Georgetown Preparatory School and Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

## 2. Location

street & number 10900 Rockville Pike n/a not for publication

city, town Rockville n/a vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Georgetown Preparatory School, Inc.

street & number 10900 Rockville Pike

city, town Rockville n/a vicinity of state Maryland 20852

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number 50 Courthouse Square

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20852

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination:
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> buildings	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Total	Original and historic functions and uses: educational, religious

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The campus at Georgetown Preparatory School south of Rockville in Montgomery County, Maryland, consists of the Main Building built in 1919 and containing classrooms, administrative offices and student facilities, the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, built in 1932-33, and three non-contributing buildings which date from after 1960: a field house, a classroom building and dormitory. The two historic buildings are located at the end of a long semi-circular drive on the ninety-three acre landscaped campus which faces on Rockville Pike. The Main Building is a three and one half story, thirteen bay wide, hipped roof brick structure with stone and wood trim and topped by a large Georgian style cupola. There is a two and one half story, three bay wing placed perpendicular to the north and south ends of the main block; these are connected by two and one half story, three bay hyphens. The building is designed in the Georgian Revival style and has several architectural features characteristic of that style including the cupola, pedimented dormer windows, a large portico with paired columns, and wood trim painted white. The chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, which closely adjoins the north end of the Main building, is oriented east to west and is an eight bay long, two and one half story brick building with stone and marble trim. The chapel was built in the High Renaissance Revival style and has a wealth of decorative stonework and sculpture on the east and west gables as well as a four story Venetian style campanile on the north facade. The interior has a coffered barrel vault ceiling with gilding, and a variety of different colored marbles is used for the columns, walls and chancel area. Both buildings are in an excellent state of preservation and are unaltered, both on the exterior and in the interior.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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Continuation sheet Georgetown Preparatory School and Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel  
 Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The campus of Georgetown Preparatory School, located south of Rockville in Montgomery County, consists of the Main Building, dating from 1919, which houses classrooms, administrative offices and student facilities; the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, built in 1932-1933; and three non-contributing buildings which date from after 1960: the field house, a classroom building, and a dormitory. These buildings stand at the end of a long semi-circular drive on a prominent rise of ground and are surrounded by a well landscaped golf course.

The main building is a three and one half story, thirteen bay wide, hipped roof brick structure with stone and wood trim and topped by a large Georgian style cupola. The building is oriented to the east and has wings running perpendicular to the north and south ends which are connected to the main block by hyphens.

The windows on the first story have 12/12 sash with wooden trim painted white, are topped by jack arches, and are set within plain recessed brick arches with a stone keystone and lintel. On the second story are 8/8 sash windows, also with stone lintels and brick jack arches. A stone belt course runs between the second and third stories. There are seventeen 8/8 sash windows on the third story and these are set closely between the belt course and a wide stone band below the cornice. There is a row of wooden wal-of-Troy moulding below the heavy modillioned and coffered cornice. The ten pedimented, gabled dormer windows are framed by paneled pilasters topped by keystone. The upper sashes are arched and have curved mullions.

The cupola is set in an octagonal base with round headed windows flanked by panelled pilasters and with full architrave. The lantern is also octagonal and is supported by Tuscan colonettes with a heavy entablature which breaks out on four sides. The eight sided dome is mad of copper.

The two story portico extends across three center bays and is supported by paired Tuscan columns with Egyptian papyrus capitals. The entablature is plain except for small rosettes on the frieze above each column. The dentilled cornice is concave at the two corners and the flat roof is topped by an elaborate iron railing.

The doorway is set within paired, fluted engaged columns with modified papyrus capitals. Above the dentilled cornice is a broken arch pediment with a cross in the center. Immediately above the glass double door, which is a replacement of an earlier wooden door, is an Adamesque fanlight with iron muntins.

The center gable window is composed of two small 2/2 sash windows set within aedicules and flanked by paneled pilasters; these windows flank a larger round headed sash window, the entire window composition topped by a semi-circular arch.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The west facade is distinguished by a three bay two story projection. Paired giant pilasters flank the doorway which is topped by a frieze of Adam style swags and urns. Above this is an arched stained glass window.

The north wing was added in 1921 and is two and one half stories tall, three bays wide and five bays deep. Both it and the connecting hyphen are gable roofed and have the same window arrangements as seen on the east facade of the main block. A curved iron balcony extends from the center window on the second floor of the east side and a wood, balustrated balcony extends from the north side of the wing.

The south wing was built in 1928 and is more elaborate. It is nine bays long with the center three bays bowed out to form a large bay. This is supported on heavy brick piers with stone capitals. There are 12/12 and 6/6 sash windows on the first story separated by stone pilasters, and a series of French windows on the second story which lead out onto a shallow curved iron balcony.

The plan of the first floor is centered around a large open stairhall with marble floors. Offices are on the east side of the building with a hallway running the length of the west side of the building. A dining room with a central fountain and kitchen are situated in the south wing while a renovated library and infirmary are in the north wing. The basement floor has been recently renovated and contains classrooms and boiler rooms. The upper floors are used for living quarters for the students and priests. The stair leading from the first floor to the second is marble with an iron Adam style railing and doubles back on itself. There is a stained glass window placed in the center of the wall at the landing.

The chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes was built between 1932-1933 in the style of the Italian High Renaissance. It is eight bays long and two and one half stories tall with a gable roof and is oriented east-west with a four story Venetian style campanile on the north side. The ceremonial entrance, which is rarely used, consists of large paneled bronze double doors set in antis within an elaborate arrangement of marble columns and carved stone pilasters. The pair of pilasters closest to the door have carving with vines, flowers and urns and elaborately foliated capitals. The frieze supported by foliated brackets, is plain with the exception of a large marble arched pediment in the center of which is a stone shield topped by a cherub's head and surrounded by stone swags. Above this arrangement is a stone crown.

A wide frieze runs above the entrance and is decorated with carved angel's heads set within rectangular niches above the two columns below and carved open bibles set in roundels above the four pilasters. A row of egg and dart moulding separates the frieze from the second story.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Most of the front of the second story is taken up by a large stone panel surrounded by stone swags and heavy draperies with tassels. The Latin inscription AVE GRATIA PLENA DOMINUS TECUM BENEDICTA TU IN MULIERBUS appears on the panel. The gable story is plain with the exception of a three quarter length statue of the Angel Gabriel set within a roundel. There is an acroterion of anthemion design on each corner of the gable roof.

The one and one half story side aisles extend one bay on either side of the nave and have a flat roof with stone balustrade. Each bay is marked by a stone pilaster of the Doric order as well as an urn with flame finial on the balustrade above. A large stone console connects the balustrade with the nave wall. The first story windows have stained glass and are rectangular with plain stone trim. The clerestory windows are square with moulded stone trim with croisettes.

The campanile stands near the west corner of the north side and is four stories tall. A bronze door with full stone entablature and a bulls eye window above are situated on the east side of the tower. The tower is plain with the exception of small narrow windows with stone trim on each story. The open belfry has paired marble columns with square pilasters set at each corner. A tall pyramidal roof with cross sits atop the belfry and is enlivened by a stone balustrade.

The most prominent feature of the west facade is the large statue of the Virgin set within a Renaissance style aedicule with scalloped hood. The flanking pilasters are decorated with a design of candelabri, swags and fleurs des lis sculpted in bas relief.

The interior of the chapel is covered almost entirely in a variety of colored marbles. Dark brown marble columns with gilded Corinthian capitals separate the nave from the side aisles; the walls of the side aisles are covered with cream colored marble up to the wainscot, darker colored marble the ceiling level. The nave is roofed by a coffered barrel vault with gilded designs decorating the edges of the coffers. White marble is used for the immense, Baroque-style enclosed entrance portal and vestibule. The portal is supported by engaged Corinthian columns and there are double doors with elaborate iron grillwork. White marble is also used for the four small offertory chapels with religious sculptures which are placed at the four corners of the nave. The chancel frontal as well as the engaged columns separating the chancel from the transepts are of green marble. The barrel vault over the choir has elaborate plasterwork and is also painted with Renaissance motifs in green ochra and red. All of the altar furnishings, including the canopy over the altar are original.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1917-1918, 1921 School 1933 Chapel	Marsh and Peter (School) Maginnis & Walsh (Chapel)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C  
 Applicable Exceptions: religious  
 Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The main academic building at Georgetown Preparatory School and nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel are significant examples of period revival architecture of the early twentieth century. The academic building, executed in the Georgian Revival style, is one of the largest and best preserved buildings in that style in Montgomery County. Significant architectural features of the building include the cupola, entrance portico and well preserved interior woodwork and plasterwork. The chapel is an outstanding example of Italianate Renaissance Revival architecture, both on the exterior and in the richly appointed interior. The chapel contains a wealth of religious and architectural decoration, and is notable for the extensive use of marble. Both buildings, still in an excellent state of preservation, were designed by architectural firms prominent in the Washington, D. C. area and in the nation in the early twentieth century. The firm of Marsh & Peter, designer of the school building, also was responsible for the First Church of Christ Scientist, the Walter Reed Army Hospital, and the DAR Headquarters, all in the Washington, D. C. area. The chapel was designed in 1932-1933 by the firm of Maginnis and Walsh, which for forty years was nationally famous as the designer of numerous Roman Catholic churches and institutional buildings including the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C. and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. The school itself is of historical significance as well, as the oldest school operated by the Society of Jesus in the United States. Until it moved to its present campus in 1919, Georgetown Preparatory School was an integral part of the original Georgetown Academy (now Georgetown University) founded in 1789 by Archbishop John Carroll and still the oldest school of Catholic higher education in the country.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Georgetown Preparatory School is historically significant as the oldest extant school operated by the Society of Jesus in the United States. Catholic education had its beginnings in the thirteen colonies at Bohemia Manor in Cecil County, Maryland as early as the 1740s. It was not until 1789, however, that Archbishop John Carroll founded his Georgetown Academy "on the banks of the Potowmack" in Georgetown. The Academy, now Georgetown University, combined preparatory education with college curricula until the preparatory school was physically removed to its present campus in 1919. Georgetown University remains the oldest institute of Catholic higher education in the nation. "In the early Jesuit educational institutions in the United States, little effort was made to distinguish between preparatory work and college work, between high schools and colleges as such. The course of studies was regarded as an integrated program of education usually running over a period of eight years and culminating in a college degree. It was in fact not until the late 1800s and early 1900s that it became the general practice to classify the divisions within the institutions as preparatory departments and college departments."

Sometime before World War I a movement developed to separate the preparatory course from the college course in the Orders' educational institutions, and, next, to establish the secondary schools as individual entities at other locations. In 1906 a quasi-formal proposal was made to remove the preparatory school at Georgetown University and by 1915 it was announced that the Offutt farm, a ninety-two acre property fronting on Rockville Pike some nine miles north of Georgetown would become the site of the new school. Although located at Garrett Park and operated by its own faculty, the school was still referred to as Georgetown College Preparatory School for several years. In 1923 the school was officially separated from Georgetown College and in 1927 the name was changed to Georgetown Preparatory School.

The architectural firm of Marsh and Peter commissioned to design the academic buildings was well known in Washington during the early twentieth century. Walter Peter (1868-1945), a seventh generation Washingtonian and direct descendant of Martha Washington, began his career in the District with the prominent firm of Hornblower and Marshall. There he met William Marsh (d. 1926) with whom he formed a partnership in 1898. The firm was responsible for numerous institutional and civic buildings in Washington, including the Evening Star Newspaper Building, the DAR Administration Building, the First Church of Christ Scientist and the Farmer's and Mechanics Bank. Marsh and Peter was equally well known for its designs for prestigious residences in the District of Columbia, several of which were featured in issues of the American Architect and Building News during 1906 and 1907.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The firm generally designed in the then-popular Georgian Revival style and several of their earlier commissions share similarities with the design of Georgetown Preparatory School. For example, the Adam-style fanlight and slender fluted columns with papyrus capitals which mark the entrance of the Conkling house (c. 1906) in Washington are identical to those seen on the main entrance to the school building. An even more striking resemblance exists between the design of the school and old Walter Reed Army General Hospital in Washington (c. 1906). The Georgian portico, the central Cupola on an octagonal base, the stone belt course between the second and third stories and the broken pediment above the entrance are architectural features present in both buildings; both are also built of brick with stone and wood trim.

Ground was broken for the building in 1916 but construction was delayed for several months because of World War I. When the building was finally completed in 1918, it was leased for one year to the YWCA to provide housing for wartime government employees. A gymnasium and track were built soon after and in 1924 the existing golf course was laid out. The north wing, built in the same style as the main portion, was constructed in 1921, seven years before a matching wing was added on the south side.

The architectural firm of Maginnis and Walsh which was commissioned to design the adjacent Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, was the foremost designer of ecclesiastical architecture in America during the early twentieth century. Charles Maginnis (1867-1955) was educated in Dublin, London and America and began his architectural practice in 1886 in Boston, then a center of the renaissance of Catholic architecture in America. A nationally known architect virtually from the beginning of his career, Maginnis served as president of the American Institute of Architects between 1937-1941 and of the International Congress of Architects, and received the AIA Gold Medal of ecclesiastical architecture in 1925 and 1927. In 1896 he joined with Timothy Walsh and Matthew Sullivan to form Maginnis Walsh and Sullivan (later, Maginnis & Walsh) executed more than one hundred and fifteen commissions for ecclesiastical buildings, nearly all of them for the Roman Catholic Church. Their commissions included the Carmelite Convent in Santa Clara, California, Trinity College Chapel in Washington, D.C., St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, several buildings at Boston College and culminated in the design of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. In recognition of his contribution to the Catholic Church, Maginnis was named a Knight of Malta by the Pope in 1945.

The firm usually designed in the Byzantine or Lombard Gothic style and were thus presented with a difficult problem in designing a chapel which would harmonize stylistically with the existing academic buildings. Because the Catholic religion and the building of Catholic churches was proscribed in England during the Georgian period, a Roman Catholic chapel in the Georgian style was considered historically inaccurate. Therefore the style chosen -

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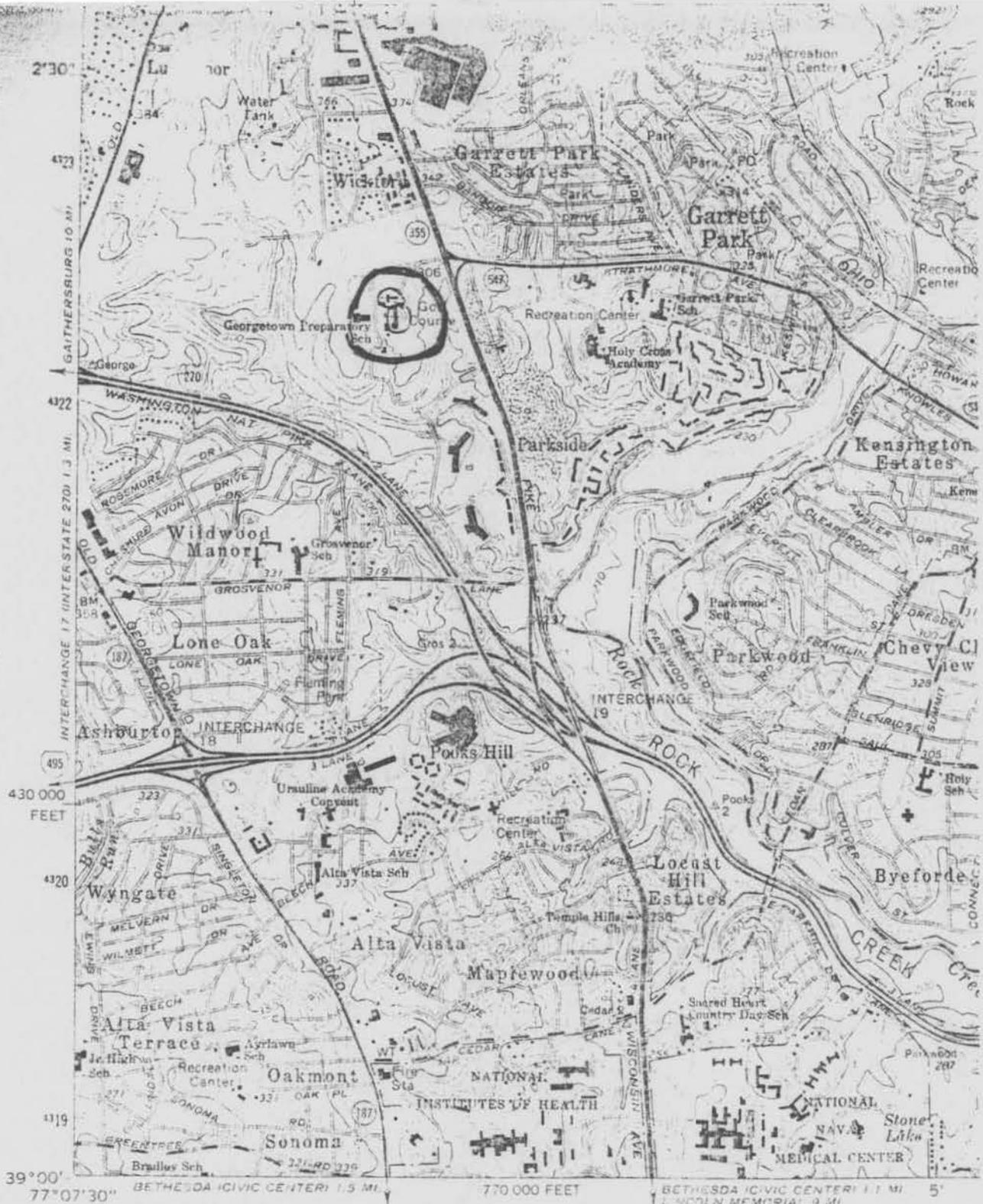
Georgetown Preparatory School and Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel  
Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Italian High Renaissance-Baroque - had the virtue of at least being contemporary with the Georgian period. The chapel, completed in 1933-1934, is a notable example of this style in the state, particularly in its extensive use of differently colored marble in the interior.



*Georgetown Preparatory School*



*(FALLS CHURCH)  
5661 NW*

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and WSSC

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 8 meters south and  
26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



*M:30-20*

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern  
are subject to controlled inundation to 351 feet