

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Inventory Number: M: 35-14-14  
 Address: 4301 East-West Highway Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Bethesda Zip Code: 20814 County: Montgomery  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Washington West  
 Property Owner: Board of Education Tax Account ID Number: 07-00417728  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): P153 Tax Map Number: HN32  
 Project: Purple Line Agency: Maryland Transit Authority  
 Agency Prepared By: Dovetail Cultural Resource Group  
 Preparer's Name: Caitlin Oshida Date Prepared: 5/8/2012

Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Listed:  yes

Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Opening Summary/Location**

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School has grown since its original construction in 1935. There have been several buildings constructed over the years, including a massive renovation that encompassed all the buildings into one structure. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Property is bounded by Sleaford Road on the north, East-West Highway on the south, Chelton Road on the east, and Pearl Street on the west in Bethesda, Maryland. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School building complex is located at the southeast corner of the property. The original building is oriented east, towards Chelton Road. However, the main entrance to the school is now on the west elevation in a new addition that is accessed via a private school road. The northern section of the 16-acre parcel is used for school athletic fields. The southwest corner of the property contains a parking area and other school facilities. Concrete sidewalks, trees, and grassy areas surround the school on all sides. A combination of brick walls and chain metal fencing mark the boundaries of the school property on the east side of the block and chain metal fencing marks the boundaries on the north, south, and west sides.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
MHT Comments: <i>Eligible: 1935 school and 1952 administration bldg. Later additions are non-contributing</i>	
<i>[Signature]</i> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<i>10/12/12</i> Date
<i>[Signature]</i> Reviewer, National Register Program	<i>10/12/12</i> Date

Historic Context

In 1926, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was established and located on Wilson Lane in Bethesda. In 1934 the Montgomery County Board of Education purchased the current site from Mary E. Patten, Helen Patten, Josephine A. Patten, and Edythe Patten Corbin with the intent of building a new, larger high school for the community (MCDB CKW 564:46). Soon after purchasing the land, architect Howard Wright Cutler (1883-948) was hired to design the new school. A previous investigation of this property described Cutler's work:

"During the 1920s and 1930s, the educational architecture in Montgomery County was shaped and transformed by Cutler. He was not a nationally-known architect, but he was a professional. Selecting Howard Cutler as the principal designer of Montgomery County public schools reveals the county's desire to project an image of professionalism and modernity, and to create a new academic image" (Alexis 1988a:5).

The original school building was constructed in 1935 and was initially called Western Suburbia High School (1934-1935). This new high school provided a 12-year program of study, whereas the old school offered limited study above the sixth grade. High school construction reflected suburban growth in the area and increased educational opportunities.

"Montgomery County, Maryland, suffered far less by the Great Depression of the 1930s than other parts of the country. A larger and more powerful federal government resulted in the expansion of Washington, D.C. and its suburbs. As the area grew so did Montgomery County and the county's school system. Between 1920 and 1940 the number of students attending public school rose from 6,195 to 15,096. During the same period, the county's expenditures on schools dramatically increased. Growth and prosperity changed the county's perception of itself. A feeling of maturity and sophistication raised architectural standards and expectations. All of this helps to explain why, despite the nation-wide building slump of the 1930s-a period when most architects had relatively few commissions, Montgomery County could afford the services of professional architects" (Alexis 1988a:4).

This expansion into higher learning was further reflected in Cutler's Colonial Revival design, breaking away from early school designs and moving towards more classical architecture. He modeled the school after the Wren Building (1695-1702), the first academic edifice at the College of William & Mary, believed by some to be designed by English architect Christopher Wren and modified by Lieutenant Governor Alexander Spotswood after a catastrophic 1705 fire.

In 1952, the Administration Building was designed by Rhees Burket and was constructed on the school grounds perpendicular to the original school building facing south towards what is now the East-West Highway. The Administration Building originally housed administrative offices as well as the social studies and mathematics departments (Alexis 1988a:16). It was the last public school building erected in the Colonial Revival style in Montgomery County. "By the 1950s, modernism had completely eclipsed traditional architectural forms in public school designs. Burket's design respected the traditional image of academic architecture established by Howard Wright Cutler in Montgomery County" (Alexis 1988a:15).

A massive renovation and expansion completed in 2002 merged the two older buildings within a contemporary facility. Designers and architects incorporated the original school building and the Administration Building into the new design, placing the new footprint behind the historical structures in what was the courtyard.

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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Architectural Description

The original school building at 4301 East-West Highway is a three-and-a-half story, 25-bay Colonial Revival civic structure with a rectangular plan. The foundation is not visible. The building is ordered by a traditional tripartite composition with a projecting central bay and pedimented entrance on the east elevation. It has a brick veneer, executed in a Flemish bond, with quoins at the corners. Its side-gabled roof is covered in shingles designed to imitate slate, and is pierced by a number of gable-end dormers. A cupola is centrally located at the top of the building. The cornice is lined with dentil molding, as is the pediment above the main entry. The building has four internal, brick chimneys, two on either end.

The primary elevation (east) has one central six-paneled, double-leaf, wood door. It has a large rectangular transom above the doorway with arched detailing. A secondary entrance is centrally located on the south elevation, and is filled with metal replacement doors. A circular window with a ship wheel's pattern, and stone keystone and drapery detailing is located at the top of the central pedimented entrance. The other windows in the main body of the building are fixed, 24-lights with metal frame replacement units. Dormer windows are arched, six-over-six, double-hung sashes, and possibly original features. Windows on the west façade have original wood frames but are now located within the interior of the whole building and cannot be seen from the exterior. A portico highlights the main entry with Ionic columns supporting a pecked segmental pediment likely made of cast stone.

The circa-1952 Administration Building faces the East-West Highway (south elevation) and models the original school form. It is a three-story, 25-bay Colonial Revival building, and it is also ordered in a tripartite composition. The foundation is not visible. It has a brick veneer, executed in a Flemish bond, with quoins at the corners, mirroring the original building. Its side-gable roof is covered in shingles designed to imitate slate. The wood cornice is accented with some ornamental stone work. The building has four interior brick chimneys, two at either end of the center massing with parapet walls.

The main entrance is centrally placed and topped with a sculptural stone swan's neck pediment. The entry is filled by double-leaf, metal-and-glass replacement doors, and topped with a large, 12-light transom above it. Two Doric columns flank each side of the entry and support the pediment. Windows throughout much of the building are new, fixed, metal-framed replacements with 24 lights.

The west façade of the Administration Building has a one-story, Modernist storage addition. A continuous concrete-block foundation can only be seen from the west façade where there are two secondary entrances. This small addition has brick veneer that is also executed in a Flemish bond and is covered by a flat roof.

On the west side of the original building and the north side of the Administration Building, the circa-2002 addition is attached by contemporary, two-story walls that are a mixture of brick, glass, and metal, and serve as connecting hallways to a larger addition that extends the east façade and encompasses the north and west façades of the original 4301 East-West Highway building. This addition incorporated many older buildings on the property into one building and has an indefinable, modern footprint. It has a continuous concrete-block foundation. The addition has brick veneer executed in a stretcher bond and uses decorative elements to break up the large walls, such as soldier rows and bands of concrete blocks, along the east, north, and west façades. It has a flat roof with a HVAC system visible at the north end.

There are multiple modern, metal doors and windows of varying sizes along the north and west façades. The west façade has a large portico supported by eight Doric columns over what is now the main entrance to the building.

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

Summary/Statement of Significance

Today, the school complex remains in good condition. There have been additions and renovations done to the building and on the property since the school was built in 1935 in order to meet the needs of a growing student body. This includes the addition of a separate Administration Building in 1952, a major renovation in 1976, and the most recent addition/renovation in 2002. The historic integrity of the historic school buildings' location, design, feeling, and association were kept intact as the older buildings were blended with the new. The original building and Administration Building continue to exhibit a high level of historic integrity in their location, design, feeling, and association. They exhibit a moderate level of historic integrity in their materials and workmanship.

The 2002 addition that incorporated the original building and the Administration Building into one structure was constructed in a contemporary style and contrasts sharply with the historic forms of the school complex. As a single structure, the addition somewhat diminishes the historical integrity of the school's design, feeling, and workmanship. However, its design clearly delineates the historic fabric from the modern alterations, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitating older buildings. This has allowed the older school buildings to remain relatively accurate to how they were originally designed and constructed. Also, because of the location of the 2002 addition relative to the original school building and the Administration Building, the older buildings' principle façades front East-West Highway and Chelton Road making them the main elevations seen by the public. They are not overshadowed by the new addition and are able to stand by themselves as individual, historic buildings.

Within the past couple of decades, many Montgomery County schools have undergone renovations to upgrade their structures and modernize them; very few still retain their original building design and materials. An example of another remaining Montgomery County public school designed in the Colonial Revival style is the 1935 former Montgomery Blair High School located at the intersection of Wayne Avenue and Dale Drive in Silver Spring, Maryland. It was also designed by Howard Cutler; today it houses Sligo Creek Elementary School and Silver Spring International Middle School (Alexis 1988b:1). In 1988, both high schools were surveyed and inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). At that time, both schools were recognized as being Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). They are also the only two high schools in Montgomery County inventoried by the MHT with Colonial Revival architecture (MHT 2012). Since that time, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School has recognized the significance of their original buildings and incorporated them into new designs, saving much of their historic integrity.

The 1935 construction of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School reflected Montgomery County's desire and recognition for higher education, and the development and use of a 12-year program of study. In a time of Depression, the community took pride in their growth and achievement as reflected it in the use of classical architecture—a trend which continued into the 1950s as the school expanded. Pride in their community's heritage is reflected today in the conscious effort to retain the historical integrity of the historic school structures. Therefore, it is recommended that Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School be considered Eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Even though the architect, Howard Cutler, was influential in the development and design of public schools in Montgomery County, Cutler's body of work extended beyond this building and the field of educational structures. Other notable works of his include Preinkert Field House on the University of Maryland College Park campus (circa 1931) and The City Church (formerly Eldbrooke United Methodist Church) in Tenleytown (circa 1926). Because other buildings in this area share an association with this individual, despite their differing architectural styles, it is suggested that the resource is not eligible under Criterion B. This property was not evaluated for Criterion D.

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

References

Alexis, Karin M.E.

1988a Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, M: 35-14-14. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey.

Alexis, Karin M.E.

1988b Montgomery Blair High School, M: 36-21. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey.

Maryland Historical Trust

2012 Inventory of Historic Properties. Electronic Database, [http://www.mdihp.net/dsp\\_search.cfm?search=property](http://www.mdihp.net/dsp_search.cfm?search=property), accessed April 2012.

Montgomery County Deed Books (MCDB)

nd Montgomery County Land Records, misc. years. Archives of Maryland Online. Electronic database, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/msa/stagser/s1700/s1741/cfm/index.cfm?CFID=40897808&CFTOKEN=97559441>, accessed April 2012.

Montgomery County Plat Books (MCPB)

nd Montgomery County Land Survey, Subdivision, and Condominium Plats, misc. years. Archives of Maryland Online. Electronic database, <http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/stagser/s1500/s1529/html/0000.html>, accessed April 2012.

Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR)

2011 Historic Aerials, misc. years. NETR Online. Electronic document, <http://www.Historicaerials.com/>, accessed April 2012.

State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)

2011 Assorted Montgomery County Tax Records. Electronic database, [http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp\\_rewrite/details.aspx?County=16&SearchType=STREET&AccountNumber=07%2000417728#](http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/details.aspx?County=16&SearchType=STREET&AccountNumber=07%2000417728#), accessed April 2012.

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MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

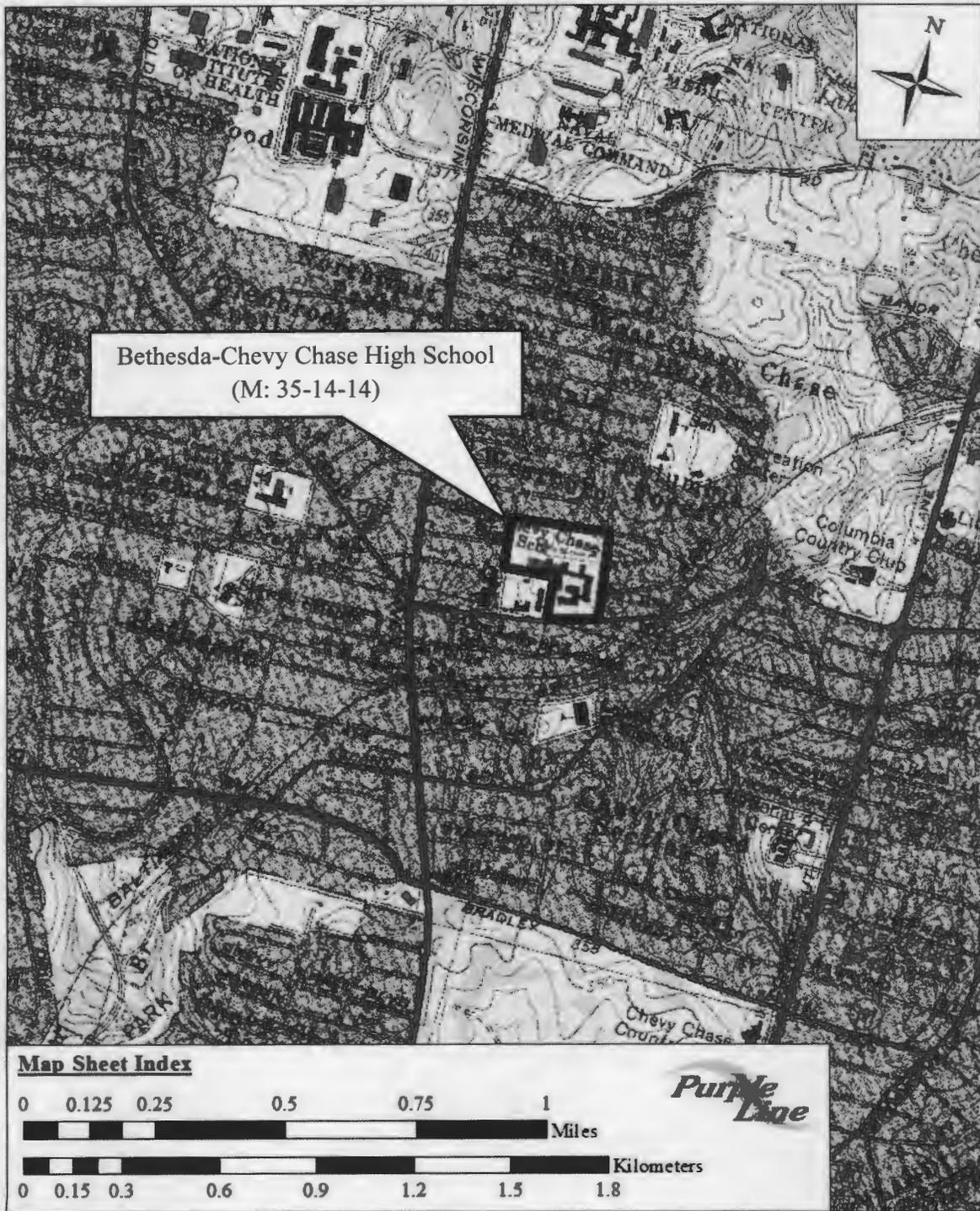
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14)  
Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD

Montgomery County, GIS Satellite Imagery



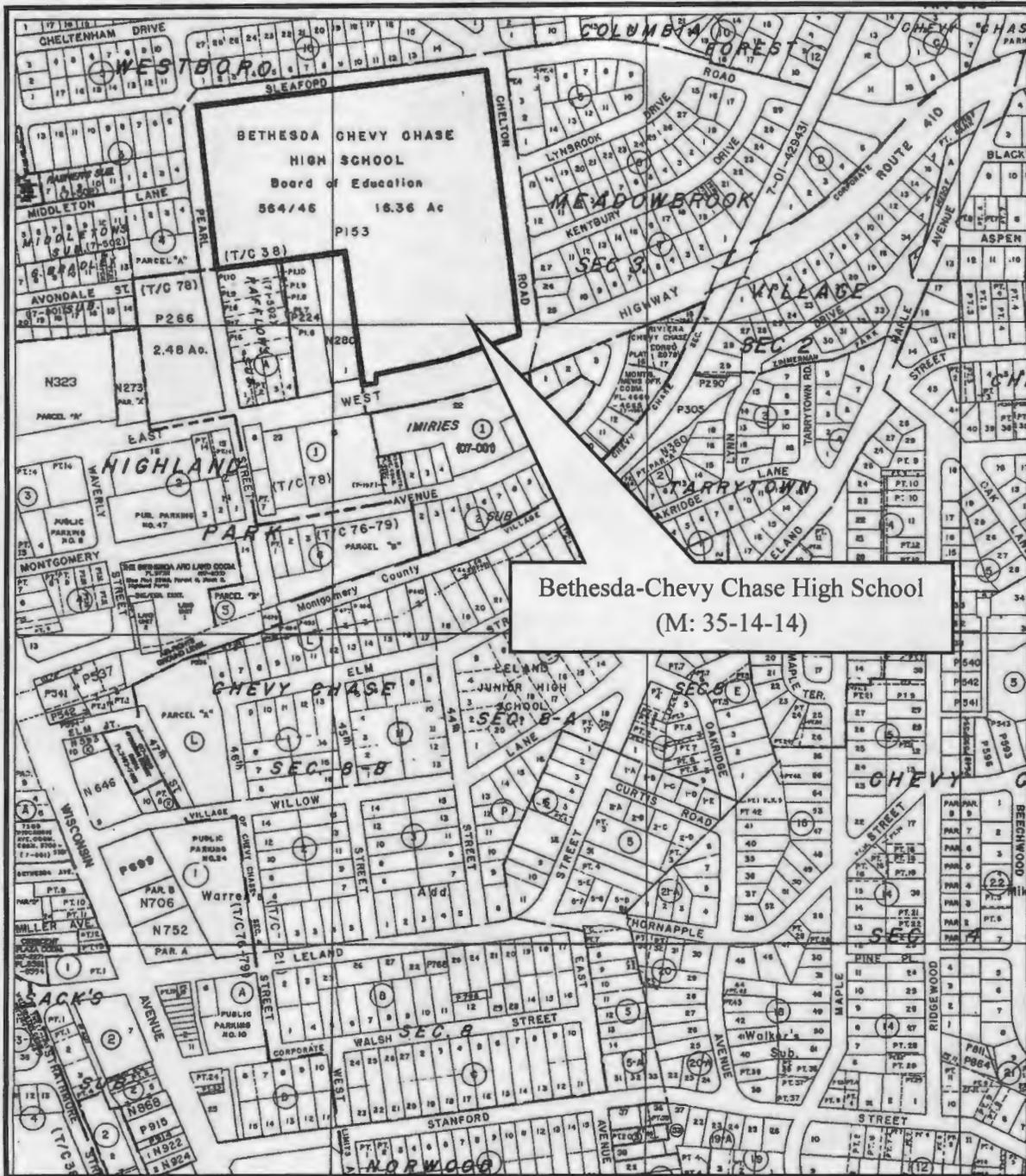
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14)  
Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD

USGS Washington West Quad, Revised 1983



Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14)  
Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD

Montgomery County Tax Map



M: 35-14-14, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Purple Line, Bethesda to Silver Spring Segment

M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_01.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) Southeast Oblique of Old Administration Building	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_02.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) View of Southeast Corner, Showing Original School Building, Old Administration Building, and Recent Addition	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_03.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) Southeast Oblique of Original School Building	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_04.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) Detail of Façade, East Elevation of Original School Building	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_05.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) Northeast Oblique of Original School Building	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_06.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) Detail of Historic Main Entrance, East Elevation of Original School Building	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_07.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) Detail of Portal Window, East Elevation, Original School Building	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_08.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) View of Addition, Taken from Northwest Corner Looking East	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_09.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) View of Current Main Entrance, West Elevation of Addition	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR
M: 35-14-14_2012-3-28_10.tif	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (M: 35-14-14) View of Old Administration Building, Looking East	3/28/2012	Dye-based HP Vivera Ink	HP Premium Photo Paper, Gloss	Memorex 80 min./700MB 52x Pro Gold Archival CDR

M: 35-14-14



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Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

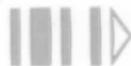
Heather Dollins, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

Southeast Oblique of Old Administration Building

# 1/10





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M: 35-14-14

Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Heather Dollins, DoveTail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

View of Southeast Corner

#2/10





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Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Heather Dollins, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

Southeast Oblique of Original School Building

#3/10



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M: 35-14-14

Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Heather Dollins, Dove-tail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

Detail of Façade, East Elevation of Original School Building

#4/10



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M:35-14-14

Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Heather Dollins, DoveTail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

Northeast Oblique of Original School Building

#5/10



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M:35-14-14

Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Heather Dollins, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

Detail of Historic Main Entrance, Original School Building

#6/10



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M: 35-14-14

Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Heather Dollins, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

Detail of Portal window, East Elevation

# 7/10





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M: 35-14-14

Bethesda - Chevy Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Heather Dollins, DoveTail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

View of addition, Looking East from Northwest Corner  
of Addition

# 8/10



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE





M: 35-14-14  
Bethesda-Cherry Chase High School  
Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland  
Heather Dollins, Dove-tail Cultural Resource Group  
March 28, 2012  
Maryland Historical Trust  
View of current main entrance, West Elevation of  
Addition

#9/10





MARISSA-CHEVY CHASE

M:35-14-14-2012-3-28-10.tif



M:35-14-14

Bethesda - Chevy Chase High School

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

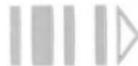
Heather Dollins, DoveTail Cultural Resource Group

March 28, 2012

Maryland Historical Trust

View of Old Administration Building, Looking East

#10/10



INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC **BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL**  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER **4301 East-West Highway (on Chelton Road)**  
 CITY, TOWN **Bethesda** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT **8th**  
 STATE **Maryland** COUNTY **Montgomery**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME **Board of Education, Montgomery County Public Schools 279-3617**  
 Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET & NUMBER **850 Hungerford Drive**  
 CITY, TOWN **Rockville** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE **MD** zip code **20850**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Department of Assessments & Taxation** Liber #: **564**  
 Folio #: **46**  
 STREET & NUMBER **51 Monroe Street, Third Floor**  
 CITY, TOWN **Rockville** STATE **MD** zip code **20850**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

M: 35-14-14

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED  
*interior*

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School has grown since 1935 when its first building was erected. Many buildings have been built over the years. Fortunately, its first building, designed by Howard Cutler in 1934, still reflects its original character.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was obviously modeled after the famous Wren Building (1695-1702), the first academic building at William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. Many historians believe that the prominent English architect, Christopher Wren, designed the Wren Building. Reminiscent of the Wren Building, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School is a Georgian-style edifice with a tempered elegance. It is a restrained classical structure built in red brick with flat walls, white ornamental trim, and exactly placed architectural refinements, such as its wood cornice, moulded brick courses and quoins.

This two-story high school with attic and basement was larger and more imposing than earlier Montgomery County schools. Unlike most previous county schools, Bethesda-Chevy Chase was designed as a laterally-extended structure (29 bays long) with a strong horizontal directional thrust of its east and west elevations. This compositional arrangement echoes the Wren Building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Reminiscent of the Wren Building, the school is ordered by the traditional tripartite (three-part) composition with projecting central pedimented entrance and surmounted by cupola. Georgian-style chimney stacks at both ends effectively terminate the composition. The design of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School respects the rules of classical symmetry, hierarchy and proportion. The perfect balance of the composition gives this building an ordered, controlled and serene character. The edifice's symmetrical character is most pronounced from its east elevation, which is the main entrance facade of the high school. Originally, the centrally located main entrance, rendered in the classical Georgian style, was demarked by a grand flight of stairs. Only architectural remnants of the main entrance exist. The stairs have been destroyed. The slate hipped roof with Georgian-style dormer windows endow the building with the visual stability desired for civic monuments.

Cupola, the small dome-like structure on the polygonal bases centrally placed atop the edifice, were traditionally associated with civic architecture. The inclusion of cupola on the Wren Building, and much later on Cutler's high school, was a way to stress the civic nature of the respective buildings. The wooden cupola with copper roof and topped with iron weather vane makes the high schools resemble town halls and public institutions.

In appearance, Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a conservative, revival style building. Technologically, it was up-to-date, equipped with concrete footings, steel windows, acoustical plaster ceilings, linoleum covered cement floors, copper gutters and modern utilities. It was a practical building with large (usually 4'4" wide) windows that emitted ample light. Recalling many other architects working on major projects during this period, Cutler worked with an engineer, James Posey, who was in charge of the technical aspects of building.

The horizontal extension of the building belies its interior plan which is arranged around a long, laterally-extended hall. Originally, this hall was perpendicular to the central entrance hall and lobby, which no longer exist. The administrative offices flanked the entrance hall and lobby; classrooms were on both sides of the main hall. A cafeteria was included in the attic; utilities were in the basement.

In 1941, over 3,000 people witnessed a fire burning through the cupola and attic (cafeteria) of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Six local fire companies fought to save the building; teachers tried to save records. One fireman, John Adair, the first person to

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

receive a diploma (1929) at Bethesda-Chevy Chase, was killed when a vehicle drove through the signal flares. Another former B-CC student was later arraigned for arson.<sup>2</sup> The cupola and attic were repaired.

Today, this building is called the Language Arts Building. Its classrooms are devoted to the study of English and foreign languages. It no longer houses administrative offices or the cafeteria.

Since 1939, the long hall of this building has been used for and decorated by student murals. The first mural (1939) depicted the discovery of America. Interestingly, another early mural, called "A Vision of the Future," depicted the architectural monuments of Washington: the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the United States Capitol and the National Cathedral. Apparently, Cutler, the architect of B-CC, helped the students determine how to render drawings of buildings.<sup>3</sup>

During the 1930s and 1940s, the high school experienced dramatic growth. The following documents the erection of new buildings and additions during the period ending in 1945-6:

1935	1st building:	\$235,828
	land:	94,859
1938	1st addition:	\$239,855
	land:	4,547
1941	2nd addition:	13,487
	land:	22,273
1946	3rd addition:	4,7384 <sup>4</sup>

Early building projects included gymnasias and an art facility. By the late 1940s, a temporary building on the site of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was the first home of Montgomery Junior College.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

M: 35-14-14

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 **1934-5** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Howard Wright Cutler**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (1934-5) is one of the most important architectural landmarks in the history of 20th century Montgomery County. The large size and architectural dignity of Bethesda-Chevy Chase distinguish this school from other academic buildings and make it one of the county's most important civic monuments of the pre-World War II period. This classical monument reveals how the spirit of the American Renaissance (late 19th and early 20th century) revived classicism and emphasis on civic pride, profoundly affected Montgomery County. In addition, Bethesda-Chevy Chase represents the great strides made by the public school system in Montgomery County during the early 20th century. These advances culminated in the maturation and institution of the 12 year program of study.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Montgomery County, Maryland, suffered far less by the Great Depression of the 1930s than other parts of the country. A larger and more powerful federal government resulted in the expansion of Washington, D.C. and its suburbs. As the area grew so did Montgomery County and the county's school system. Between 1920 and 1940 the number of students attending public school rose from 6,195 to 15,096. During the same period, the county's expenditures on schools dramatically increased, reaching \$2,437,770.83 in 1945.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Growth and prosperity changed the county's perception of itself. A feeling of maturity and sophistication raised architectural standards and expectations. All of this helps to explain why, despite, the nation-wide building slump of the 1930s ---- a period when most architects had relatively few commissions, Montgomery County could afford the services of professional architects.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the educational architecture in Montgomery County was shaped and transformed by architect Howard Wright Cutler ( - 1948). Cutler was not a nationally-known architect, but he was a professional. Selecting Howard Cutler as the principal designer of Montgomery County public schools reveals the county's desire to project an image of professionalism and modernity, and to create a new academic image.

Howard Cutler came to Washington from New York State with a professional training. In New York, he worked in the architectural offices of J. Foster Warner for one year and Gordon & Madden for seven years. Cutler was a member of the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) before he was elected to the national organization of the AIA in 1915. At this time, he had been in practice with his own firm, Hutchinson & Cutler, for five years.\* Throughout most of his career in the Washington area, his offices were located in the District of Columbia. However, late in his career, he apparently worked out of his home on Dale Drive in Silver Spring, Maryland.

As an architect, Cutler well represented the spirit of the American Renaissance (late 19th and early 20th century) ---- its civic ideals and revived classicism. As Cutler brought standards of professionalism and an academic vision to his work, he transformed county school architecture. Interestingly, it was during the 1930s --- the period of the Great Depression, when Cutler's most important school commissions for Montgomery County were built. During the 1930s, Howard Cutler defined the academic image along traditional lines by often relying upon or making reference to classical architecture. Cutler was concerned with the great traditions and symbolic potential of architecture. At the same time, he was a practical architect who made effective use of materials and did not include extraneous ornament. His academic approach and classical vocabulary endowed schools with the look of great institutions in civic centers, thereby making the "school house" of rural Montgomery County look passe, out-of-date.

M: 35-14-14

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Bethesda-Chevy Chase, originally called Western Suburbia High School (1934-5),<sup>7</sup> was one of Cutler's greatest achievements of the period. Cutler's design for this high school represents a new direction in the county's educational image.

In 1926, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, then located on Wilson Lane in Bethesda, offered study through the eighth grade. By the Fall of 1926, the school added ninth grade. Due to population growth, the school building was soon overcrowded. Two years later, in 1928, the seventh through tenth grades were moved into a new building at 44th Street, Elm Street and Bethesda Avenue. Records indicate that Cutler designed this building,<sup>8</sup> which included six classrooms, an auditorium with a capacity of 1,500 and a gymnasium. At this time, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was the largest in the Maryland.

The population of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area continued to grow. By the early 1930s, there was already a need for a larger high school.

Interestingly, instead of asking Cutler to add on to the 1928 building (which became Leland Junior High School), the Board of Education selected a new site not far from the existing Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School for the proposed Western Suburbia High School. The self-conscious choice to separate the new high school from the existing one may have been a way to stress the difference between the old "high" school, which offered some study above the sixth grade, and the new "high" school, which provided a twelve year program of study.<sup>9</sup> A new and separate building thus proclaimed the new educational system instituted during the 1930s.

The county purchased \$94,859 worth of farm land owned by the prominent Watkins family for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. The Watkins house still stood on the site. This location was off the then developing East-West Highway, near the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue, and not far from the B & O Railroad line. The site was on high ground, which gave the building great visibility from different directions.

The school's main entrance was oriented toward the east, facing west-bound traffic on East-West Highway; its eastward elevation overlooked Rock Creek and the Rock Creek park system, which was developing during this period. The selection of such a conspicuous location for the high school on vital arteries of transportation and near Rock Creek Park effectively advertised the high school to the public. Thus, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School served

M: 357414

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

as a public monument welcoming visitors to Bethesda from the east, coming from the areas of Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

A new academic image was needed to express the advances represented by the newly instituted twelve year system. This explains why the new high school reveals a stylistic departure from early schools. Western Suburbia High School shows that Cutler was increasingly self-conscious of style, particularly the symbolic potential and historical associations of classical architecture. Cutler employed the Georgian style for this new school of higher learning.

The Georgian is the name given to the English Baroque, a classical 17th and 18th century style. The English Baroque is known for its symmetry, dignity and academicism, and for being more restrained than continental Baroque styles. A variation of the Georgian was transplanted to the English colonies in North America, including Virginia and Maryland. Both Williamsburg, Virginia, and Annapolis, Maryland, are known for their Georgian Colonial architecture. Georgian architecture was rejected by Americans after the American Revolution because the style was associated with English rule. The revived classicism of the American Renaissance during the late 19th and early 20th century fostered a Georgian Revival.

During the 1930s, John D. Rockefeller's restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, resulted in another Georgian Revival. By this time, the public's perception of Georgian architecture was positive. As a classical style, the Georgian represented tradition, civility, and stability. Most importantly, it was associated with the roots of American culture, and perceived of as an American style. The Georgian was self-consciously viewed as a style that linked American culture to European civilization.

Howard Cutler was one of many architects inspired by the Georgian Revival. His choice of the Georgian style for high schools in Montgomery County was more logical than one might initially think. By selecting the Georgian, Cutler made reference to Maryland's early history and to early American educational traditions. Harvard College, Massachusetts, and William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, were the two oldest colleges in America. Their early buildings were rendered in the Georgian style.

The Wren Building (1695-1702), the first academic edifice at William & Mary and believed by some historians to have been designed by the famous English architect

M: 35-4-14

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Christopher Wren, was the obvious model for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Reminiscent of the Wren Building, Cutler's Georgian-inspired high school possesses a tempered elegance. It is a restrained classical edifice that expressed the academic image sought by the Montgomery County Board of Education.

NOTES

- 1 Original 1934-5 blueprints of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School by architect Howard Wright Cutler are in the possession of Construction Division of Montgomery County Public Schools in Rockville, Maryland.
- 2 The Tattler (Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's newspaper), Friday, April 23, 1976 (50th anniversary issue), A-20, column one.
- 3 An article entitled "Murals bring new life, dimension to hallways" (The Tattler, Friday, April 23, 1976, B-7, column one) states that students took snapshots of buildings and then met with "the architect who had designed B-CC."
- 4 "School File," Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland.
- 5 See Appendix, E. Guy Jewell, From One Room to Open Space: A History of Montgomery County Schools From 1732 to 1965, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Public Schools, 1976, 320-1.
- 6 Karin M.E. Alexis's manuscript on the architectural history of educational institutions in Montgomery County, 1900-1945 (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust) includes a summary of Howard Cutler's architectural career and his work for the Montgomery County Board of Education. Some valuable information on Cutler was found in the Archives of the American Institute of Architects (RG 803 Box 221, Folder 71).
- 7 Cutler's blueprints (1934) call the high school Western Suburbia High School.
- 8 The early renderings (1928) of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (Leland Junior High School) are by Cutler (Division of Construction, Montgomery County Public Schools).
- 9 For more information on this, see Alexis' manuscript (including bibliography) on the architectural history of educational institutions in Montgomery County, 1900-1945.

M: 35-14-14

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Archives, American Institute of Architects;  
Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;  
Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;  
Library, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School;  
Montgomery County Historical Society;

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16.36 A  
not entire campus  
building: 216' X 63'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East-West Highway, Chelton Road, Sleaford Road, Pearl Street,

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE **KARIN M.E. ALEXIS, PH.D., ART & ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

ORGANIZATION

DATE

**JUNE 1988**

STREET & NUMBER

**2449 Villanova Drive**

TELEPHONE

**280-1107**

CITY OR TOWN

**Vienna, Virginia**

STATE

**22180**

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.

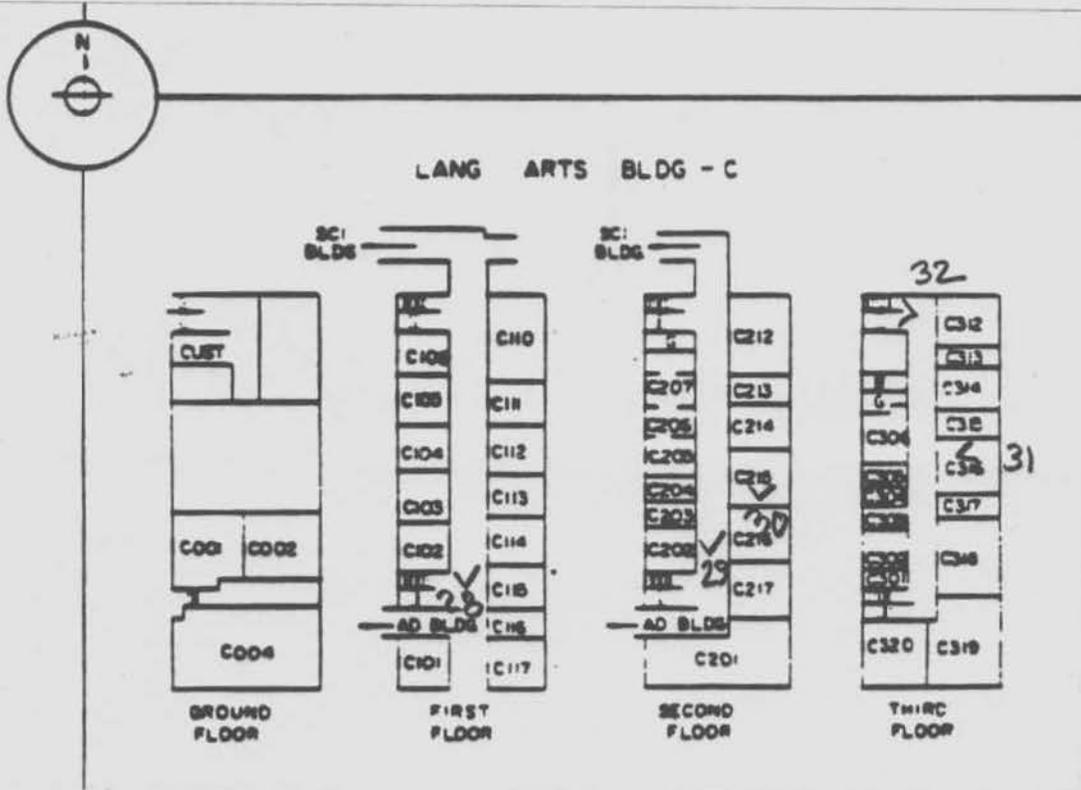
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

M: 35-14-14  
M: 35-47

BCC High School  
Montgomery Co., MD

Index to Photographs of the interior of  
Building C



M: 35-14-14

M: ~~35-47-1~~

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC Administration Building, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 4301 East-West Highway (facing East-West Highway)

CITY, TOWN Bethesda \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME Board of Education, Montgomery County Public Schools 279-3617 Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 850 Hungerford Drive  
 CITY, TOWN Rockville \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ MD 20850 STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Department of Assessments and Taxation  
 STREET & NUMBER 51 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor  
 CITY, TOWN Rockville, MD 20850 STATE

Liber #: 564  
 Folio #: 46

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Administration Building of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (1952) still reflects its original character. It was designed by architect Rhees Burket to complement Howard Cutler's 1935 building (the first building on campus). Burket's Administration Building was conceived as a large academic edifice with a sense of tradition, dignity and tempered elegance created by symmetrical balance and the classical Georgian style. It is an all masonry construction of red brick walls, white trim (wood cornice), slate roof with wood dormer windows, and concrete footings and base.

Burket's tracings and renderings from 1947-49 proposed several alternatives for future building projects. The design concept for the future administration building closely resembles the architect's early proposals for an administration building (1947) and a physical education facility (which was never built to Burket's earliest specifications). Burket envisioned a T-shape plan with an administration center and library (to the rear). A covered passage would connect the administration building with the 1935 edifice. Probably due to financial limitations, these buildings were not erected in the late 1940s. However, Burket's design (1949) for a badly needed cafeteria (83'4" long; 205,000 cubic feet; 600 person capacity) was built in 1950 on the site of the administration center. It was to serve as the basement of the future administration building. This structure included space for a temporary library.

Finally, in 1951, Burket's ideas for the Administration Building took their present shape. Burket designed a two story (from the front; three stories from the rear) Georgian style edifice with full attic and basement (which already existed as the cafeteria). This design respected Cutler's 1935 Georgian academic building,

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

which was modeled after the famous Wren Building (1695-1702), the first academic building at William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. Burket's structure is also in this tradition.

Burket's Administration Building is a restrained classical structure built in red brick with flat walls, white trim (wood cornice), high hipped Georgian style slate roof with dormer windows and Georgian style chimney stacks framing the center pavilion (13 bays). It also includes moulded brick articulations, stone quoins and some ornamental stone work. Recalling Cutler's 1935 building, this high school structure is laterally-extended (25 bays long) with the main entrance on the long side (south elevation) facing East-West Highway. The school is ordered by the traditional tripartite (three-part) composition with center projecting pavilion and sides. The elegant main entrance with sculptural stone swan's neck pediment is elevated by a grand flight of steps.

The horizontal extension of the building belies its interior plan which is arranged around a long, laterally-extended hall. On the first (main) floor, the long hall flanked by administrative offices; on the second and third (attic) floors, the hall is flanked by classrooms.

REPOSITORIES AND SOURCES

Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;  
Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;  
The Tattler, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's newspaper,  
Friday, April 23, 1976;

**SIGNIFICANCE**

M: 35-14-14

<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b>				
<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 **1952** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Rhees Burket**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Administration Building (1952) of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, designed by Rhees Burket, is an important architectural landmark in the history of Montgomery County and its public schools. This Georgian style edifice represents the persistence of the classical tradition during a period overwhelmed by Bauhaus-inspired modernism. It is of great historical significance because it is the last Georgian style academic building erected for a public school in Montgomery County. By the 1950s, modernism had completely eclipsed traditional architectural forms in public school design. Burket's design respected the traditional image of academic architecture established by Howard Wright Cutler in Montgomery County.

During the 1930s, architect Howard Cutler defined the academic image of Montgomery County's public schools along traditional lines. He often relied upon references to classical architecture. Cutler was concerned with the great traditions and symbolic potential of architecture. In 1934, Cutler used the Georgian style for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and Montgomery Blair High School.

The Georgian is the name given to the English Baroque, a classical 17th and 18th century style. The English Baroque is known for its symmetry, dignity and academicism, and for being more restrained than continental Baroque styles. A variation of the Georgian was transplanted to the English colonies in North America, including Virginia and Maryland. Both

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Williamsburg, Virginia, and Annapolis, Maryland, are known for their Georgian Colonial architecture. Georgian architecture was rejected by Americans after the American Revolution because the style was associated with English rule. The revived classicism of the American Renaissance during the late 19th and early 20th century fostered a Georgian Revival.

During the 1930s, John D. Rockefeller's restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, resulted in another Georgian Revival. By this time, the public's perception of Georgian architecture was positive. As a classical style, the Georgian represented tradition, civility, and stability. Most importantly, it was associated with the roots of American culture, and perceived of as an American style. The Georgian was self-consciously viewed as a style that linked American culture to European civilization.

The choice of the Georgian style for high schools in Montgomery County was more logical than one might initially think. By selecting the Georgian, architects made reference to Maryland's early history and to early American educational traditions. Harvard College, Massachusetts, and William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, were the two oldest colleges in America. Their early buildings were rendered in the Georgian style.

When Burket's Administration Building was completed in 1952, the social studies and mathematics departments were moved into the second and third floors. By this time, the campus consisted of Cutler's 1935 building (the language arts building), an arts building, gymnasias for boys and girls, and temporary quarters for Montgomery County Junior College (which was in temporary quarters). Together these building formed a quadrangle around a central court.

Also see Karin M.E. Alexis' manuscript on the architectural history of Montgomery County's Public Schools: 1900-46 (1988) (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust).

M: 35-14-14

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;  
Montgomery County Historical Society;  
Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16.36A  
not entire campus;  
building: roughly 185' X 65'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East-West Highway, Chelton Road, Sleaford Road, Pearl Street,

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE KARIN M.E. ALEXIS, PH.D., ART & ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

ORGANIZATION DATE JUNE 1988

STREET & NUMBER 2449 Villanova Drive TELEPHONE 280-1107

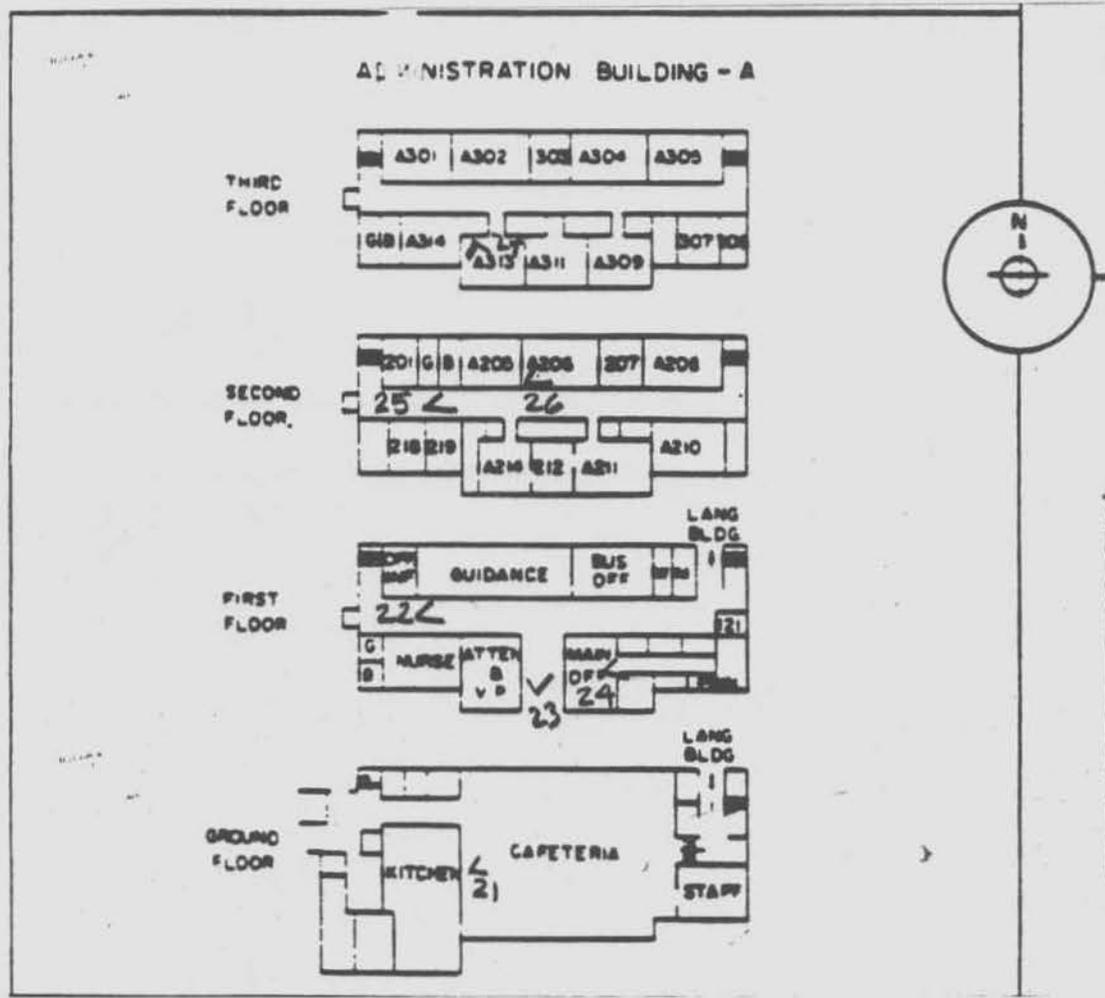
CITY OR TOWN Vienna, Virginia 22180 STATE

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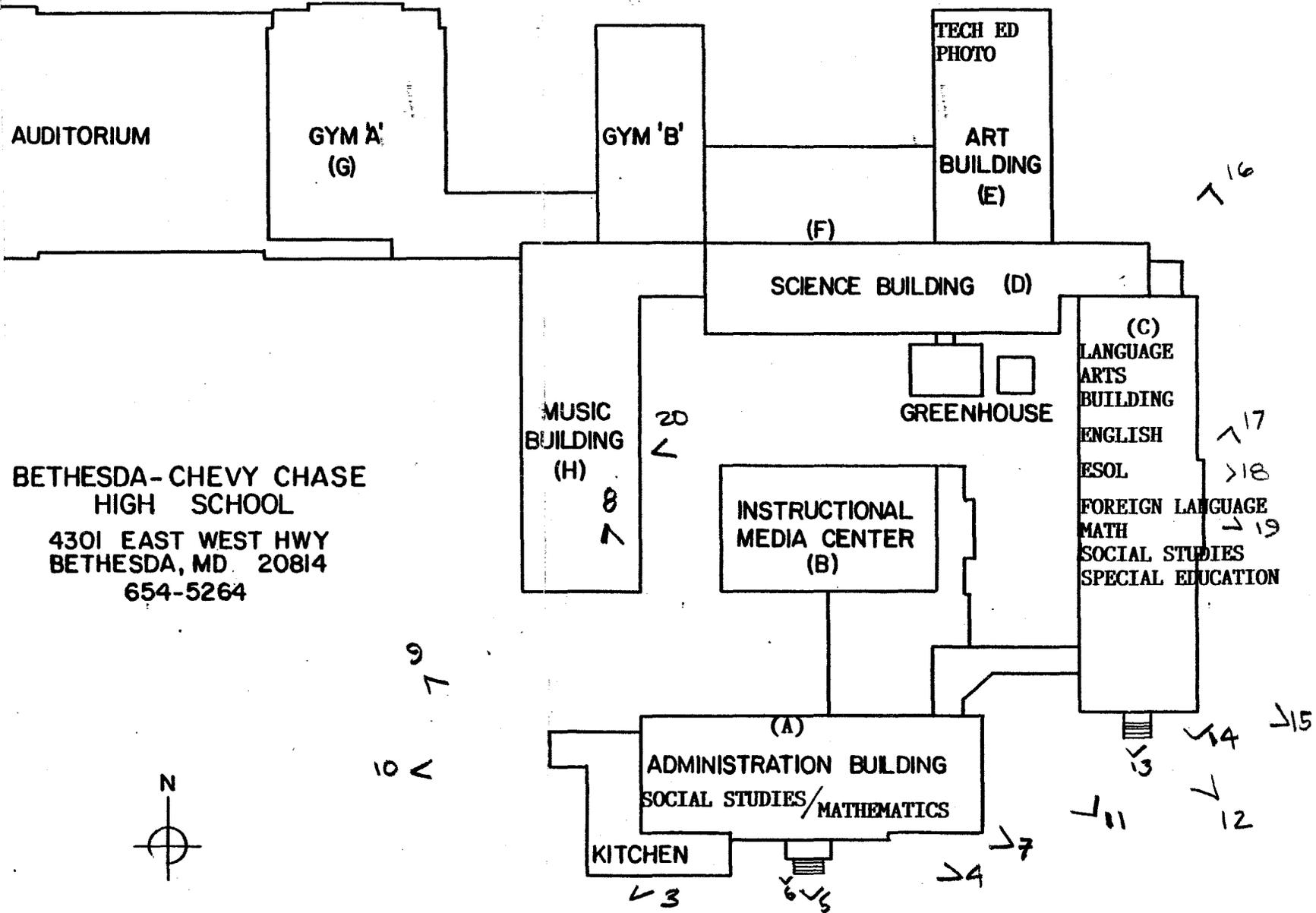
Index to Photographs of the interior of  
Building A



M:35-14-14

M:35-47 BCC High School  
M:35-47-1 Montgomery Co., MD

Index to Photographs of the exteriors of  
Buildings A and C



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
4301 EAST WEST HWY  
BETHESDA, MD 20814  
654-5264



M: 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldgs A+C

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebovich

6/99

MD SHPO

looky e.n.e.  
across East-  
West Highway  
at school

1/32



M: 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldgs A+C

Montgomery Co. MD

Bill Lebowitz

6/99

MD SHPO

looking NE  
across East-West  
Highway at  
School

2/32



M: 35-1414  
ECC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery Co.,  
MO

Bill Lebonich  
6199  
MO SHPO  
South  
elevation,  
looking  
East  
3/32



M: 35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery Co, MD  
Bill Leborich  
6/99  
MO SHPO  
South elevation,  
looking west  
A132



4301

M:35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery Co., MD  
B. IT Lebovich  
6/99  
MD SHPO  
detail of  
center of  
main  
elevation  
5/32



M: 35-14-14

BCC High  
Colored

Bldg #1

Montgomery Co,

<sup>MD</sup>  
Bill Lebarrie

6199

detail, main

Entrance

balustrade

MD SP120

6132



M:35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery Co., MD  
Bill Lebovich  
G/SS  
MD SHPO  
East Elevation  
7/32



M: 35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery, MD  
Bill Lebovich  
6/99  
MD SHPO  
North  
Elevation  
8/32



M:35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery Co., MD  
Bill Lebovich  
4/99  
MD SHPO  
west + north  
elevations  
9/32



M: 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg A

Montgomery Co., MD

Bill Lebovich

U199

MD SHPO

West elevation

10/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School  
Montgomery Co, Md

Bill Lebovich  
6/99

MD SHPO

hyphen  
connecting  
blgs A & C

1/32



M:35-1474

ECC High

Section 1

Bldg C

Montgomery Co.

MD

Bill Lebovich

6/30

MD SHPC

Section

194

Collection

12/32



M. 35-14-14  
RCC High School  
Bldg C  
Montgomery Co,  
MD  
Bill Lebovich  
Lolss  
110 SHPO  
detail of  
entrance,  
south  
elevation  
13/32



M: 35-14-14  
BEC High School  
Bldg C  
Montgomery Co., MD  
Bill Leberich  
6/95  
MO SHPO  
Sable and  
S.E. corner  
14132



M:35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg C  
Montgomery Co, MD  
Bill Lebovich  
6/99  
MD SHPD  
East elevation,  
looking  
North  
15/32



M: 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg C

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Leberich

6/99

MD SHPO

1HC elevations

16/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High

School

Bldg C

Montgomery Co

MO

Bill Lebarich

6/99

210 SHW

Center of  
east elevation

17/32



M: 35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Montgomery Co, MD  
Bill Leberick  
6/99

detail of door  
surround  
center of  
east elevation  
MD SHPO  
18/32



MD:35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg C  
Henderson Co, MD  
Bill Lebovich  
6/99  
MD SHPO  
Cupola, east  
elevation  
19/32



M: 35-14-14

BCC High School

Box C

Montgomery Co,

MD

Bill Lebovich

V199

MD SHPO

West elevation

20/32



MD: 35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg H  
Montgomery Co.  
MD

Bill Lebowich  
6/99  
MD SHPO  
cafeteria,  
looking  
east

21/32



M. 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg A

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebarovich

6/95

MO SHPO

1st floor corridor

looking east

22/32



M: 35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery Co,  
MO  
Bill Lebovich  
6199  
MO STATE  
entrance hall  
looking north  
23/32



M: 35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A

Montgomery Co, MD  
Bill Belovich  
6/99

MD SHPO  
main office,  
looking east  
2A/32

208



M=35-14-14

BCC High School

Blde A

Montgomery Co., MD

Bill Lebovich

6/99

MD SHPO

2nd floor corridor

looking east

25/32



M:35-14-14

RCC High School  
Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebonick

6199

MD SHPO

Room A 206,  
looking west

26/32



M:35-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg A  
Montgomery Co, MD  
Bill Lebovich  
6135  
MD SHPO  
Room A 313,  
Looking SE  
27/32



M: 315-14-14  
BCC High School  
Bldg C  
Montgomery Co,  
MD

Bill Lebowich  
6499

MD S&PO

1st floor  
Corridor,

looking  
north

28/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg C

Bill Lebowitz

Class

NO SHWO

2nd floor

corridor,

locky north

29/32



M: 35-14-14  
BCC High School  
T3dy C  
Montgomery Co., MD  
Bill Leborich  
6/39  
Room C 215,  
looking north  
MD SHPO  
30/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg C

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebrvic

6/99

MD SHPD

Room C 316,

looking east

31/32



M: 35-14-14  
BCL High School  
Bldg C  
Montgomery Co.  
MD  
Bill Lebovich  
6/99  
MD SHPO  
3rd floor  
Stairlanding  
N.W. Corner  
32/32