

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAGI #1651094629  
(Assumed 11/86)  
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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic

and or common Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District

## 2. Location

street & number Courthouse Square and South Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Rockville N/A vicinity of Eighth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet No. 1. (less than 50)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 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

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Continuation sheet Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District  
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OWNERS OF PROPERTY:

Montgomery County, Maryland  
The Hon. Charles W. Gilchrist  
County Executive - Montgomery County  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, Maryland

Farmers' Banking & Trust Company  
c/o James P. Moylan, Regional Vice President  
First National Bank of Maryland  
1 Bank Street  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

Mr. Paul Onstad  
Director of Historic Preservation  
General Services Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20405-001

Joseph S. & L. P. McCarthy, et al  
c/o James Wharton, Esq.  
100 South Washington Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

John T. Bell, et al  
101 West Jefferson Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dr. William Linthicum  
110 South Washington Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Sunderland Joint Venture  
c/o Albert E. Brault, et al  
101 South Washington Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Rita Veall, Secretary  
Vestry of Prince George's Parish  
Christ Episcopal Church  
109 South Washington Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

# 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 type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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	
<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: commercial, government, residential

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District is focused on what remains of Rockville's old commercial, governmental and residential center. The district is linked visually and aesthetically by a uniformity of building designs, scale, materials, and setting. The district characterized also by large trees along the street and surrounding the courthouse. The two courthouses, an 1891 red brick Romanesque Revival structure and a 1931 Neo Classical granite building with an 1960s addition; the 1939 Georgian styled Post Office of limestone construction, and the 1930 Art Deco stone structure built for the Farmers Banking and Trust Company are boldly proportioned masonry structures in an almost park-like setting with trees and lawn that visually dominate and set the character of the area. The residential section to the south consists of seven late nineteenth and early twentieth century frame Victorian and Georgian or Colonial Revival upper middle income houses that are fairly uniform in scale, materials and design, and placement along a tree-lined street with brick and concrete sidewalks. A mid 1880s Gothic brick Episcopal church stands at the south end of the residential section. The general historical character of the district along the north end is fragmented because of demolition and new construction but because of the scale and massing of the historic buildings that remain in this section, a sense of time and place from the early to mid twentieth century is clearly felt. A bronze statue of a standing soldier with folded arms mounted on a stone base commemorating the Confederate soldier stands near the 1891 courthouse.

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Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

*(Easement)*

1. The 1891 Red Brick Courthouse was designed in the Romanesque Revival style popular for public buildings at the end of the 19th century. Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis combined steeply pitched rooflines, a large square tower, semi-circular arches, varied textures and colors and horizontal bands into an imposing public structure suitable for a County experiencing a major growth spurt. The exterior is virtually unaltered.

The rectangular Courthouse faces north onto what was once Rockville's main street. Built on granite ashlar block foundations on a sloping site, the Courthouse is constructed of red pressed handmade brick and Seneca sandstone. The exterior walls are 24" thick at the base. The overall dimensions of the common-bond outside walls are 104' x 64', with the long dimension along a north-south axis.

On the north (front) elevation, nine wide granite steps lead to the double wood (original) doors of the main entrance at the second floor level of the tower. This facade features a six-story square tower, which above the entrance has two tall rectangular windows flanked by applied brick columns and separated by an engaged sandstone column; these windows are surmounted by a semi-circular stained glass window and set into a rusticated sandstone arch with a cut keystone. At the third level there is a triple window set into three rusticated sandstone arches. At the fourth level there is a horizontal opening with a sandstone rectangular frame enclosing three windows separated by sandstone columns. At the fifth level, on each facade, there is a round window divided into four quarters, with two sandstone downspouts above. The sixth level is open, featuring small balconies with heavy ornate copper-clad railings on three sides, and two sandstone columnettes on each of the four sides. The tower has a pyramidal roof covered with slate and topped with a copper-clad apex.

The main roof of the Courthouse is hipped and covered with slate; there is a cross gable on the east and west elevations. On the east and west gable ends are two sandstone stringer courses and two small round-headed windows with brick arches. The roof eaves flare slightly out over the denticulated cornice line.

The Courthouse has one-over-one double-hung windows with rusticated sandstone lintels and sills. Windows on the second and third floors are 5' wide by 9' high, while those on the first floor are smaller. At the third floor on the east and west facades are four large stained glass windows, surmounted by a circular sandstone arch with carved keystone and springblocks.

On the interior, all of the original walls are solid brick; finish plaster was applied directly to them. A 9' wide central corridor lined with original wainscoting runs the length of the building on the first and second floors. Ceilings are plaster with plaster crown mouldings. On the first level, the floors are concrete slabs on grade; the second and third levels have wood on wood joists, except for the second floor corridor which is terrazzo on a concrete and clay tile floor system. Doors to the corridors are highlighted by panelled jambs and

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

multipaneled doors; many are topped with transoms, and a few on the second level retain original hardware and hugs pins at the entrances.

The largest space is on the third level, where vaulted plaster ceilings rising 25' above the floor, semi-circular stained glass windows, entrance with heavy denticulated cornice, and large carved wooden trusses combine to provide the sense of time and place of a late 19th century courtroom. The County Government intends to remove modern intrusions such as panelling and restore this as ceremonial space.

When the 1891 Courthouse was renovated in 1975, the County took care to preserve most of the original details. The vaulted plaster ceilings in the courtroom were repaired, and wood floors were covered with carpet. Original windows were reglazed and rotted wood trim was replaced. Iron grilles and dampers of the original ventilation system were left in place, and some plaster ceilings remained undisturbed over modern suspended acoustical tile ceilings. The heavy timber roof framing trusses were left intact. Some original doors and hardware are still in use, and two shallow fireplace mantels were retained. The exterior was cleaned and masonry joints repointed.

The 1891 building sits on a landscaped site, with a lawn on two sides and a few old hardwood trees. On the east side stands a statue of a Confederate soldier looking south. The lawn slopes down to a low stone wall edging the sidewalk at the front of the building.

2. Attached to the west by a brick connector is the 1931 Neo-Classical style "Grey Courthouse." This large-scale two-story structure was built of Indiana limestone blocks. The L-shaped building includes the original north-facing symmetrical block and a west-facing wing added in 1961. Both blocks are of steel frame construction.

The main (north) entrance to the Grey Courthouse is through a projecting pedimented hexa-style portico. The gabled roof of the portico, which features classical revival entablature and denticulation, is supported by six Ionic columns. The frieze bears the words "Montgomery County Courthouse" and the architrave below states the date "1931." Wide exterior steps form the base of the portico.

Applied pilasters separate each bay of the north facade and extend a full two stories. The first and second stories are separated by a simple rectangle within a rectangle within a rectangle shallow design between the pilasters. Windows throughout the building are six-over-six, and the flat roof is hidden behind a simple entablature.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Inside, the entrance lobby is decorated with Classical Revival detailing - brass elevator doors with Montgomery County seals, brass trim and decorative light fixture. The largest Courtroom, Courtroom One, located on the third floor in original condition, is of fine proportion with double height windows, wood panelling, plastered ceilings and attractive woodwork in the pews and judge's bench.

The total area of the Grey Courthouse is 80,000 square feet, containing offices, courtrooms and a jail, which is skillfully concealed from the street level with windows behind the masonry parapet.

The site is landscaped to the north, south and west with attractive stone walls and some significant large trees.

The business district ran east-west on East Montgomery Avenue and Commerce Lane, spanning approximately eight blocks. It included a variety of architectural styles and uses: institutional buildings executed in brick, small frame residences, two late 19th century hotels, diner, pool halls and small restaurants, an Art Deco theatre. Original construction and updating ranged from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries, and the scale remained that of a small County seat. Ultimately, in the 1960s, traffic, parking and economic problems led City officials to choose redevelopment of the 45-acre area; this resulted in virtually complete demolition of the older buildings, which were replaced by an enclosed mall.

3. The First National Bank of Maryland - originally the Farmers' Banking and Trust Company - represents the only surviving Art Deco building in the City of Rockville. Its location, at #4 Courthouse Square, is also significant as representing the older business district which was destroyed in urban renewal.

The building was erected in 1930, and the architects were Tilghman Moyer & Company. The simple lines of the building make it a classic example of the synthesis of Neo-classical and Art Deco that James Goode of the Smithsonian Institution has recently termed "Greco-Deco," whereby a stripped neoclassical structure was adorned with decorative elements inspired by the Paris Exposition of 1925: "L'Exposition Internationale Des Arts Décoratifs Et Industriels Modernes." The two-story building faces south and was constructed of brick with granite facing. The roof, though flat, has a stepped effect and the granite slabs feature carved ornamentation. On the east and west sides are five rectangular, vertical windows separated by flush columns whose capitals feature Art Deco motifs of a floral character. Within the vertical window shafts, the rectangular first-story windows and square second-story windows are separated by metal spandrels featuring additional Art Deco motifs carved across the west side above the windows is the original name of the bank, now covered by a sign using the present name. On the south side of the building are three additional window shafts, and at the bottom of the middle shaft is the entrance and doorway surrounded by a carved frame: pilaster-like posts, joined by a two-level pediment-like central panel, with five vertical panels of ornamental grillwork on the lower portion

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

(immediately over the doors) and an upper triangle portion with intricate Art Deco motifs. Additional decorative carvings are featured at the upper corners of the building where stylized eagles are depicted above a simple Deco floral or plant motif.

Inside, the Deco ornamentation is continued in the frame surrounding the vault (which also features an Art Deco clock), the security railings in front of the vault, the east and west ceiling runners and the marble mouldings of the entrance door. Finally, an excellent Art Deco chandelier is featured in the bank.

To the east of the main three-bay facade is a one-bay, slightly recessed section. Upstairs, which is entered by a small door on the south facade of this section, are a staircase and elevator which lead to several small offices above the bank (once provided for bank officers). The hall and office walls have been covered by panelling, but each wood and glass entrance door retains its transom.

4. The 1939 English Style Georgian style Post Office sits on the corner of Washington and Montgomery Streets. The style is unusual for the time and location. It is five bays along South Washington Street by six bays deep, one story high with corner tower, of brick and limestone material, with full basement.

The most distinguished architectural feature is a two story hexagonal entrance tower. The tower makes a strong image both visually and functionally. Visually, the tower marks the intersection of these important streets. Functionally, one gains entrance to the Post Office through the tower.

The two-tiered tower, with its arched openings and arched windows, and the two major wings are faced with limestone. The clay tiled roof tower is pitched and capped by a small carved stone finial. The two identical wings radiate from the tower at 90°, parallel to either street, and end with an apsidal niche. Each wing is divided by limestone pilasters, and a limestone entablature unifies the entire facade hiding the flat roof. In addition to the niche, each wing has three large rectangular 12-over-12 double hung windows.

The wing along Washington Street forms the public postal lobby, while the wing along Montgomery Avenue is comprised of administrative offices. The remaining interior block of the building supports the post office functions, giving an overall square footprint. Loading docks are located at the rear of the building.

The spacious postal lobby has 15-foot ceilings, the original bulletin boards and brass and glass postal boxes, and a handsome painted mural depicting a view across Montgomery County to Sugarloaf Mountain. A mezzanine overlooks the lobby as well as the main work area, providing a vantage point from which the supervisor could oversee without being seen. The remaining interior has been divided into smaller offices. The Building now houses the post office (Courthouse Station") and recruiting offices for the U. S. Military.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The eight buildings on South Washington Street display a variety of vernacular interpretations of architectural styles from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The pedestrian scale, rhythm and spacing of the buildings, large trees and a brick sidewalk on the east side of the street create a pleasant and peaceful streetscape.

On the east side:

5. 100 South Washington Street is a 2½ story Queen Anne style frame house. It is dominated by a square corner tower, and has a gable front with decorative shingle, front and side porches, German siding and several rear additions. Erected 1893.

6. 104 South Washington Street is a 2½ story gable front and wing, L-shaped frame house with a two-story rear addition. Major alteration in the 1950s replaced Eastlake ornamentation with Greek Revival stylistic characteristics. Erected 1884.

7. 108 South Washington Street is a 2½ story gable front four-bay by two-bay frame cottage. Its basic Greek Revival features are complemented by Eastlake detailing on a wraparound porch. There are two rear additions. Erected 1902

8. 110 South Washington Street is a 2½ story, three-bay by three-bay frame dwelling designed in the Colonial Revival style. It is decorated with classical elements, has a large front porch, projecting central bay with Palladian window, and is unaltered. Erected 1903.

On the west side of South Washington Street:

9. 101 South Washington Street is a five-bay by two-bay 2½ story frame house which was enlarged in 1909 and redesigned in the Georgian Revival style. The

house displays balanced form, central gable with Palladian window, large interior end chimneys, striated clapboard and two rear additions. Erected 1884.

10. 105 South Washington Street is a 2½ story vernacular frame building executed in the Queen Anne style. There is a large three-bay two-story turret on the southeast corner. The rectangular house is covered with asbestos shingle. Erected 1887.

11. 107 South Washington Street is a 2½ story, L-shaped vernacular frame Victorian house. The front facade is dominated by a wide three-bay gable end, and the house has eclectic Greek Revival and Queen Anne characteristics. Erected 1887.

12. Christ Episcopal Church at 109 South Washington Street, is a common-bonded red brick Gothic-style structure. The west-facing front facade has a steeply pitched gable in the north bay, covered with a patterned slate roof; there is a large stained glass window above the double entrance doors. The south bay is a three-tiered brick tower with steeple. The church was built in 1884-1887. The parish hall built in 1926 and the educational building constructed in 1956 are connected to the church.



# 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** mid-19th c.-1939      **Builder/Architect** multiple

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: A, C  
 Applicable Exceptions: G  
 Significance Evaluated: local, state

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

The Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District is significant both historically and architecturally. Although modern redevelopment has encroached upon the district and resulted in some fragmentation, the district retains sufficient integrity to reflect the growth and development of Rockville, the seat of Montgomery County, from the mid-19th century to the era of World War II. The district comprises a cohesive collection of civic, commercial, and residential buildings within an area of two city blocks; the close juxtaposition of these various building types is characteristic of small county seats of the period in Maryland and elsewhere, as the establishment of important centers of business and government fostered the development of middle-to-upper-income housing on the immediately adjacent streets. The civic/commercial and residential sections are strongly linked visually and aesthetically, characterized by buildings exemplifying late 19th and early 20th century architectural styles, complementary in design, scale, materials, and setting. The setting is enhanced by mature trees lining the streets and surrounding the courthouse. The focus of the district is the courthouse square, location of governmental activity continuously for 200 years; on this site stand the 1891 and 1931 courthouses, Montgomery County's third and fourth courthouses respectively. The 1891 courthouse, a red brick building designed by prominent Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, represents the best example of Victorian Romanesque architecture in the county. Its successor is constructed of limestone in the Neoclassical tradition. The district also comprises the First National Bank (formerly Farmers' Banking and Trust Company) building, Rockville's only surviving example of Art Deco influence, and the English Georgian style Post Office. Although the 1939 post office is less than 50 years old, it is exceptionally significant within the context of the district as Rockville's first permanent post office building and the last major public edifice constructed in the city prior to World War II. The houses along South Washington Street reflect vernacular Victorian and Revival styles popular around the turn of the 20th century, exemplifying the type of dwelling favored by professionals in the period who chose to reside in close proximity to the civic and commercial center of town.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

On September 6, 1776, the Maryland Constitutional Convention passed a resolution which divided Frederick County into three parts. The southern portion became Montgomery County, named for the patriot, General Richard Montgomery, who was killed at Quebec, December 21, 1775. At an election held to select the new County seat, what became the City of Rockville was chosen for its central location within the new County, its location along an established road, and the existence of taverns to accommodate travelers and those with court and government business.

The first Court was held on May 20, 1777, "at the house of Leonard Davis" (exact location unknown); Davis was instructed to provide for the "reception of prisoners" and for a permanent courthouse. In 1779, Thomas Owen Williams, owner of the land designated for the Courthouse, proposed improvements for repairing the "house they sitt in" and the jail; Benjamin Ray erected a new whipping post, stocks and pillory. How long they met in this converted house is unknown, but in the 1783 Assessment Records, Williams is noted as the owner of "Young Man's Delight" containing 200 acres and improved by "1 framed Courthouse, 3 framed dwelling houses and 4 old out houses." Rockville, in 1800, had a population of 200.

This early Court dealt with such issues as indecent behavior, felony, care of orphans, apprenticeship and slavery, illegitimate children, road building, tavern licenses, deeds, wills, and marriage licenses. At specific times, the Court sat as a Levy Court to authorize expenditures of County business and to set the County tax. The description of the first Courthouse is lost to history, but it was sufficiently outgrown by 1810 to necessitate a separate building for the Court Clerk and his records. Commissioners were appointed to "locate and superintend the laying of a Lot or parcel of land...to build a Courthouse and prison for the use of the aforesaid County," and 2-7/8 acres were acquired for that purpose.

In 1835, the County petitioned the Maryland General Assembly to authorize a new Courthouse, which was completed in 1840. By that time, Rockville was an established residential, governmental and market center, with a population of 400 which included doctors, many people connected with the Courthouse, merchants and farmers. The town boasted a private boys' school (The Rockville Academy), a newspaper, the annual County fair, twice-weekly stage coaches, six churches, hotels and boarding houses, and a business area centered around the Courthouse. The Courthouse's original one-story wings were raised in 1872 to provide more space, and the property was enclosed by an iron fence.

Following the opening of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad through Montgomery County in 1873, thousands of acres of farmland were subdivided into building lots, and developers, investors, speculators, and new residents increased

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

County population and Courthouse business severalfold. During the first decade of Rockville's building "boom," the population more than doubled, from 688 in 1880 to 1568 in 1890. The growth impact overloaded the Courthouse. A building committee was appointed, and construction on the new fireproof brick and sandstone Courthouse began.

The new Courthouse was designed by Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, who utilized the Romanesque Revival style then popular for public buildings, not realizing that it would soon be overpowered by the Chicago Exposition's influence. In addition to being the last building of this architectural style constructed in Montgomery County, the Courthouse was also one of the last masonry-bearing structures erected here. Davis used Romanesque to emphasize the importance of the Courthouse, also including carved Seneca sandstone quarried in Montgomery County to recognize the locality.

Architect Davis (1839-1921) designed churches, schools, police stations, jails and private homes in Maryland before leaving the state in 1914. Thomas P. Johns of Baltimore was the builder. Construction costs were approximately \$45,000.

The 1891 Courthouse became the center of activity in Rockville and Montgomery County. Tuesday was "Court Day," when the County Commissioners, the Orphans' Court and other government agencies held their regular sessions. Circuit Court sessions in March and November attracted lawyers, jurors, litigants and other interested parties. Two local hotels provided rooms, livery services and meals for all involved. Rockville was known as a "Gretna Green," for as many as 150 couples married at the Courthouse each month. Most attorneys maintained offices around the Courthouse square, and the Courthouse was the scene of many ceremonial events. The Courthouse faced onto East Montgomery Avenue, Rockville's main or "front" street which had housed its commerce and industry since the early 19th century. The Courthouse held Rockville's fire engine and siren from 1922-1926.

As the County population increased after World War I, and County governmental business grew correspondingly, the pressing need for a larger Courthouse could no longer be ignored. The County Commissioners appointed a committee to recommend alterations or additions to the existing Courthouse, and the group suggested a new building. In 1927, the Legislature approved \$300,000 to acquire the land between Court and Washington Streets, Montgomery Avenue and Jefferson Street, to raze the buildings on that square, and to construct a new Courthouse. Delos H. Smith and Thomas H. Edwards of Washington designed the new building in the Neo-classic tradition, and J. J. McDevitt Company of Charlotte, North Carolina constructed the new Courthouse of Indiana limestone. A brick "hyphen" connected the two Courthouses. After the Circuit Court and other departments were moved to the 1931 Courthouse, the 1891 Courthouse was used for the Peoples' Court, Police Headquarters, the Surveyor's office, tax office and other County offices. Rockville's population multiplied dramatically following the second World War. In 1950, there were 6900 residents; in 1954, 12,000; in 1960, 25,000.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The County government moved its offices out of the Courthouse in 1953. An addition was made to the south of the 1931 Courthouse in 1958-1961 to house additional offices and courtrooms. In the late 1960s, the Montgomery County Council allocated funds to raze the 1891 Courthouse, but citizen protest induced it to reverse that position and renovate it for modern needs. The People's (later District) Court's Chief Clerk's Administrative Office, Civil, Traffic, and Parole and Probation Divisions moved out of the old Courthouse in 1970. The Courthouse was completely vacated in March 1971 when the Chief Judge's Chambers and Criminal Division relocated to an intended interim Shady Grove/Rockville location. This move represented the last time the Red Courthouse was used for Court purposes, thus ending its eighty-one year continuous judicial career.

The 1931 Courthouse was used by the Circuit Court until a fifth Montgomery County Courthouse ("Judicial Center") was dedicated in 1982. This Courthouse was the first to be constructed solely with local County funds and without State bonds. It cost \$21 million.

The 1891 Courthouse will soon house County uses compatible with its historic character, and the 1931 Courthouse will be renovated for occupancy by the Peoples' Court's successor, the District Court.

To the east of the Red Brick Courthouse stands a statue of a Confederate soldier, thought to be the farthest north such statue not related to a battlefield. Rockville provided soldiers for both sides during the Civil War, as did most Maryland towns, but sympathies of the majority here lay with the Confederacy. In 1913, the Ridgeley Brown Chapter, CSA, erected this monument. As Col. Spencer C. Jones contributed the largest amount of money toward the statue, his likeness was the model for the head. During urban renewal, the statue was transferred from its location in a triangle formerly situated just north of the Red Brick Courthouse to its present location.

Among the structures and institutions displaced by construction of the 1931 Courthouse was the Farmers' Banking and Trust Company. Organized in 1900 by eight prominent Rockville men, by the following year the new bank was sufficiently prosperous to be able to pay dividends to its stockholders and to erect a building at the corner of Court Street and Montgomery Avenue. When the property was purchased for the new Courthouse, the bank purchased two lots on the north side of Commerce Lane (East Montgomery Avenue) and appointed Tilghman Moyer of Allentown, Pennsylvania, to design a new building.

The new Farmers' Banking and Trust Company building was executed in the popular Art Deco style. Construction costs totaled \$160,000. The bank's location at the crest of a hill overlooking the County seat's commercial district was prominent indeed. In 1962, Farmers' Banking and Trust Company merged with the First National Bank of Maryland.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Although postal service was begun at "Montgomery Courthouse" in 1794, post offices in Rockville have been located in a variety of buildings since that time. By the mid-1930s, the need for a permanent building to house the postal service for the County seat was recognized. \$35,000 was paid for the lot on the corner of Montgomery and Washington Streets, and the small frame buildings which had housed the Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper office, press and publisher Matthew Fields since 1855 were demolished. Construction was begun in November 1938, and Rockville's first permanent Post Office building (which cost an additional \$32,000) was dedicated with a parade on July 22, 1939.

The small size of the Post Office is related to the perceived importance of Rockville in 1938, but its construction was a source of considerable community pride. The mural of Sugarloaf Mountain was executed by artist Judson Smith of New York in the fall of 1940.

In the 1960s, the City embarked on a 47-acre urban renewal project which eventually caused demolition of most of Rockville's central business district. The only structures which remain are those in this cluster at Courthouse Square and Washington Street.

Residences on the block just south of the Courthouse site were built on four lots of the 1803 Plat of Rockville. Proximity to the Courthouse and commercial center assured early development in this area, and by the late 18th century the two corner lots were built upon. As building continued through the 19th century, both new and replacement buildings were constructed by the town's doctor, county officials and a minister. All seven residences on South Washington Street were built by the Anderson or Stonestreet families. The eight buildings have construction dates between 1884 and 1910, and display a variety of vernacular architectural styles of this period.

On the east side of South Washington Street:

#100 was built c. 1799 by James W. Anderson, M.D., but was razed by his daughter, Julia, in 1803 and replaced with the present structure at that time. #104 was erected by Julia's sister-in-law, Mrs. James A. Anderson, in 1884, and remained in that family until 1939. #108 South Washington Street was constructed in 1902 for John W. Warner, an attorney in Rockville. #110 is known as the Dr. Linthicum house, as it was built in 1903 for Dr. Otis Linthicum who married Ella, a daughter of Dr. Edward Stonestreet.

On the west side of South Washington Street:

#101 was constructed in 1884 to replace a house which had served as Sheriff's office and jail before 1790; Dr. Stonestreet's daughter, Mrs. George Lamar,

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Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

remodeled the house to its present configuration and style in 1909. #105 and #107 were constructed on land owned by Mrs. Stonestreet's family since 1846; daughter Adelaide Stonestreet Greene built #105 in 1887 and daughter Martha Stonestreet Abert built #107 in 1905.

The present Christ Episcopal Church has occupied #109 South Washington Street since 1884-1887. The Gothic-style church replaced one built on the site in 1821. A Parish Hall was erected in 1926, and Educational Building in 1956, and #107 was purchased for use as the parsonage in 1955.

Today, five of the former Stonestreet and Anderson residences have been adapted for use as law offices, and Dr. Stonestreet's grandson continues to live in #110.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Land & Assessment Records of Montgomery County, Maryland

Malloy, Mary Gordon, and Poole, Martha Sprigg, "Montgomery County Courthouses: The Montgomery County Story, Vol. XIII, No. 3 (Montgomery County Historical Society, May 1970).

Bickerstaff, Alice G. "The Farmers' Banking & Trust Company: An Art Deco Classic," unpublished paper. 1980.

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Wirz, Hans and Richard Striner, Washington Deco: Art Deco in the Nation's Capitol (Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D. C. 1984).

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Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 10

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:**

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The boundaries of the Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District conform to the existing (1986) property and curb lines of those properties shown on the enclosed Sketch Map. Specifically, these boundaries are the east property lines of 100 through 110 Washington Street; the south property lines of 109 and 110 Washington Street; the west property lines of 101 through 109 Washington Street; the north property line of 101 Washington Street; the curb line of Washington Street from 110 Washington Street on the south to the south property line of the U. S. Post Office on Washington Street at Montgomery Avenue (southwest corner); the south, west, and north property lines of the post office parcel; the curb line on Montgomery Avenue from the north property line of the post office to the west line of the old Farmers Banking and Trust Co., number 4; the west and east property lines of the bank parcel and the north side of the bank building; the curblines east from the bank parcel, wrapping southeast and east along the 1931 and 1891 courthouses, and extending west along Jefferson Street to the east property line of 100 Washington Street where this description begins.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries of the Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District are drawn to encompass the concentration of resources that contribute to the historical and aesthetic character of the district. The boundaries are also drawn to avoid, where possible, inclusion of those buildings and areas surrounding the district that do not contribute to this character. The district consists primarily of residential, commercial, and civic buildings in Classical and Victorian styles in a setting characterized by large mature trees and a small town feeling. It is surrounded by large scale modern buildings and vacant land that are the result of a mid-twentieth century urban renewal program. The district divides into two sections: the commercial and civic buildings to the north of Jefferson Street and the primarily residential structures to the south. These sections are connected historically and visually. Historically the residential area developed as home to prominent business and government officials who wanted to be within close proximity of the downtown area. Visually, the residential section looks into the downtown area as it still does. The site of the new building to the south of the Post Office historically contained a church and auxiliary building that were set back from the street surrounded by open space. This open feeling still exists as the new building is also set back with open space surrounding it. Historically, the district always has been bordered on the west and southwestern sides by free-standing buildings in a rural setting or suburban setting not like the urban nature of this district. Montgomery Avenue in front of the courthouses and to the east of the bank was lined with commercial structures abutting each other. To the east were free-standing commercial buildings spaced wide apart.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 11

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 7 acres

Quadrangle name Rockville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	1 8	3 1 4 0 0 0	4 3 2 8 1 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	3 1 3 7 3 0	4 3 2 8 1 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	3 1 3 7 2 0	4 3 2 7 7 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 12.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eileen McGuckian, Dwayne Jones, John McNickle, William Neudorfer, Glen Lerner, Richard Griner

organization Peerless Rockville date March 1985

street & number P. O. Box 4262 telephone (301) 762-0096

city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  date 8-28-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

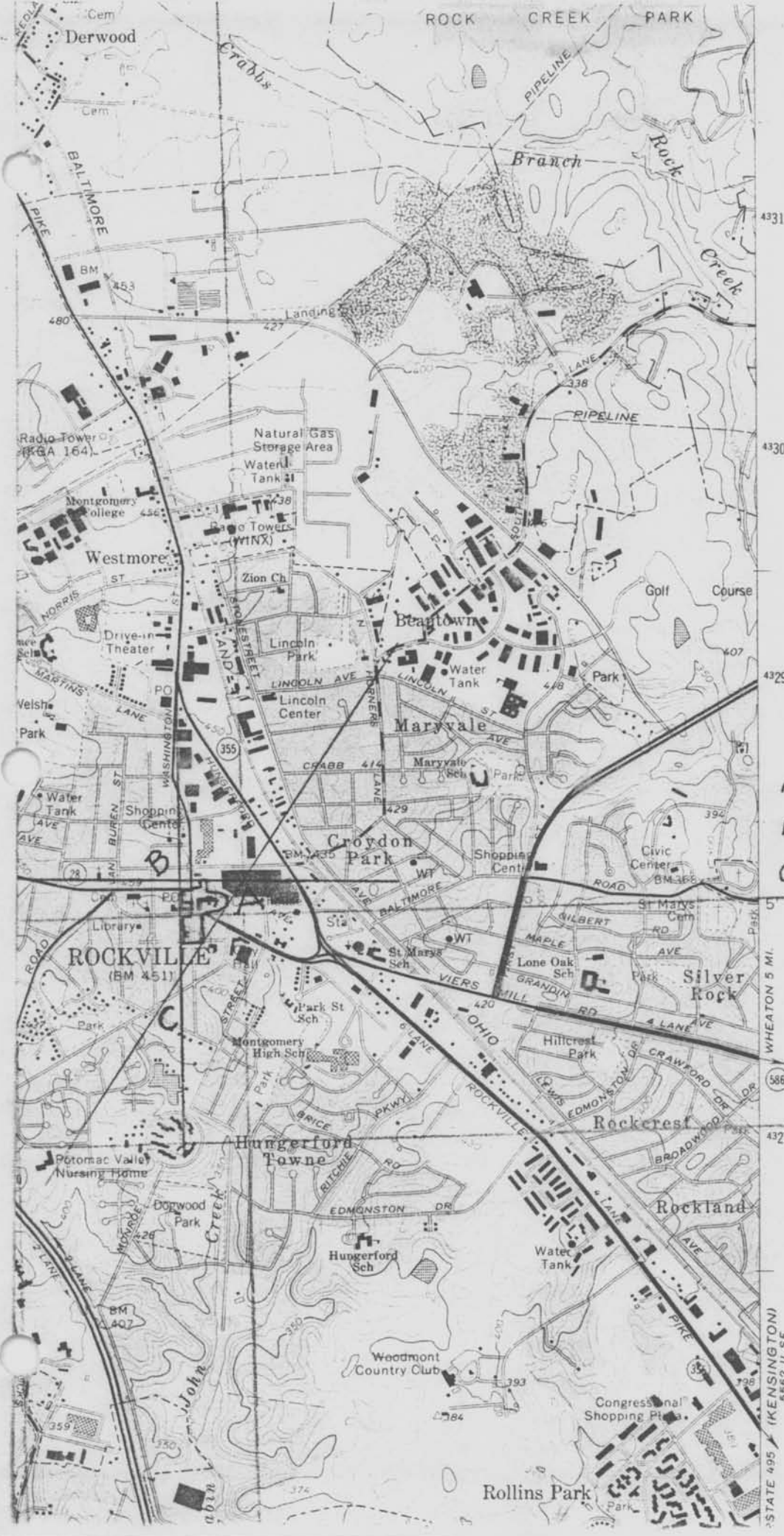
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration





M:26-11

Montgomery Co.  
Courthouse  
Historic District

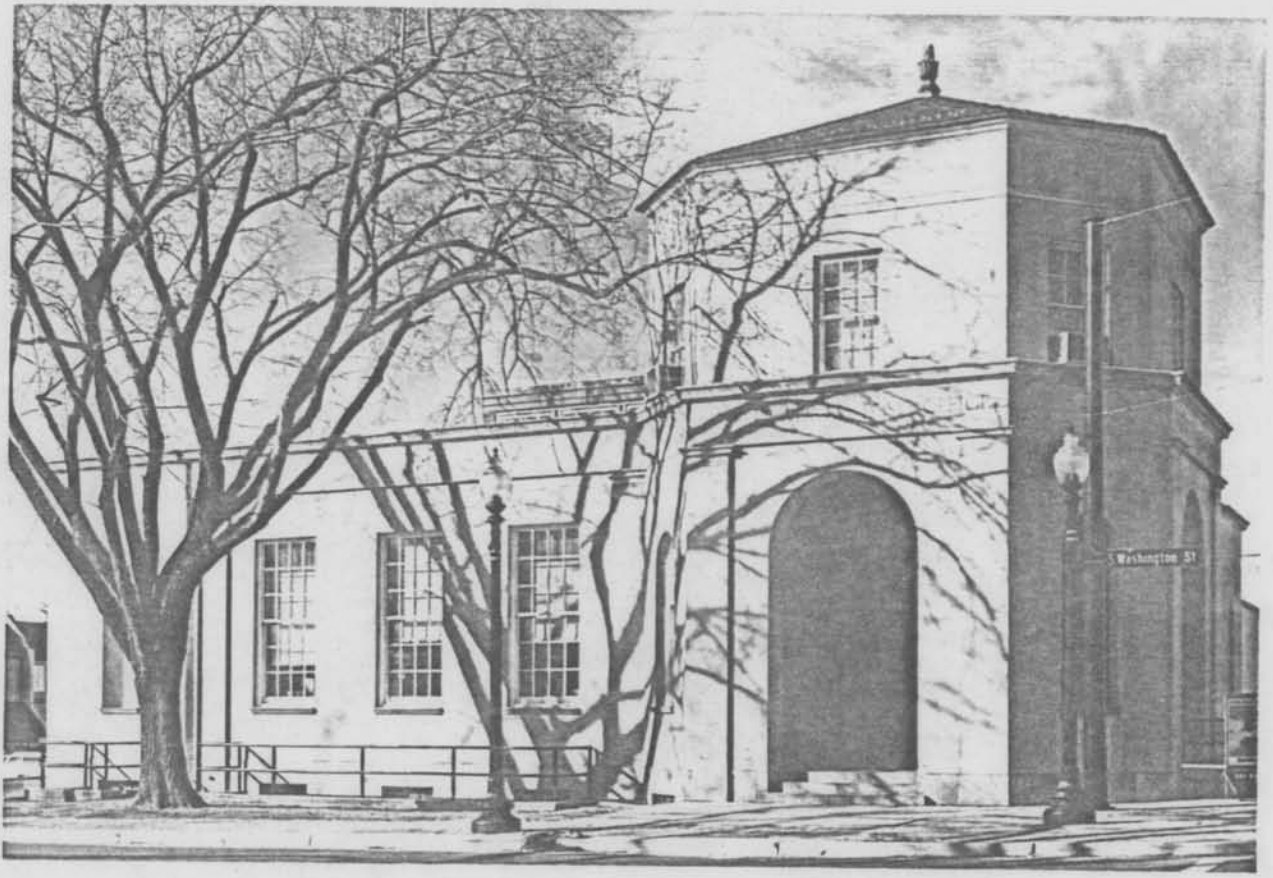
Montgomery Co.  
Maryland

A 18/314000/4328140

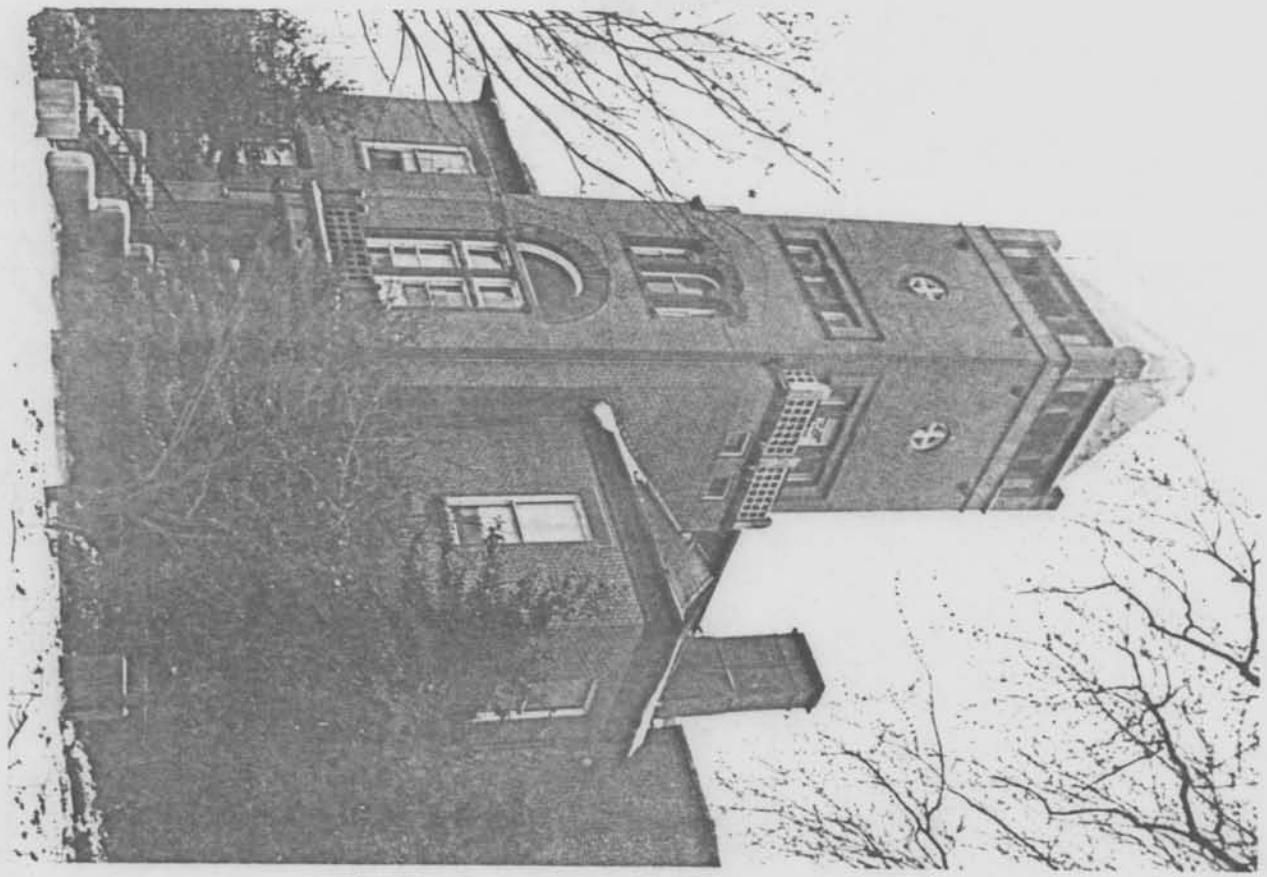
B 18/313730/4328150

C 18/313720/4327720

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South Washington St, view SE from Jefferson St.