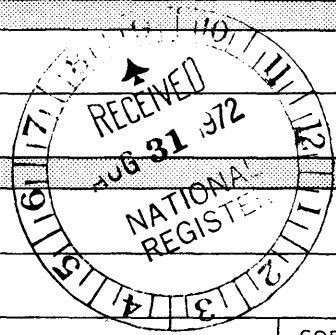


PH0026042  
130

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 14 SEP 1972	DATE



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
National Park Seminary Historic District  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
National Park College

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Linden Lane  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Forest Glen  
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Montgomery CODE: 031

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>convalescent center</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
United States of America, Department of the Army, Walter Reed Hospital  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
16th Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Montgomery County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Montgomery Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Rockville  
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

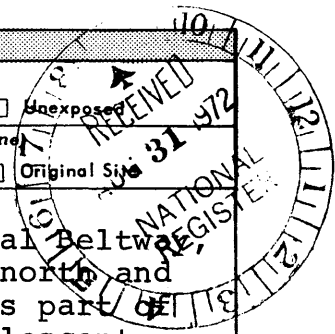
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis  
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Montgomery	
ENTRY NUMBER 14 SEP 1972	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	



DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

National Park Seminary is located south of the Capital Beltway east of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks, and north and west of Linden Lane, in Forest Glen, Maryland. It is part of the Walter Reed Army Hospital and is used as a convalescent center and living quarters for army personnel.

The Seminary grounds include either side of a steep, wooded ravine in which are located approximately twenty buildings of varying size and architectural quality. The largest structure, which is also the oldest, was originally named Forest Glen Inn (1890). It is a two-story stucco building on a stone foundation, trimmed in wood in a vaguely half-timber style. At various points the roof has been raised to add a full third story. A one-story veranda runs along the north facade and a three-story pedimented pavilion juts out from the facade at the entrance (see photograph). There is a band of stained glass over the entrance which says "Ye Forest Inn." After the Inn proved a financial disaster, it was converted into the main building of National Park Seminary (1894).

A three-story stucco wing of the Inn extends to the south. The southern end is finished in a three-story colonnade (see photograph). Corinthian columns support a pediment that contains a round, traceried, stained glass window of stylized roses.

The one-story chapel (1898) is attached to the south end of the Inn. A rectangular building with three-sided bays at each end, it is of stucco with wooden trim and a bell tower. The stained glass is typical of the late nineteenth century. On the interior, the pews are arranged in a semi-circle around the altar. Originally the chapel had green plush auditorium-like seats which the army has replaced with more conventional pews.

The Aloha Dormitory (1898) is located to the southeast of the chapel. It is also stucco with wood trim. The courtyard created by the south end of the Inn, the chapel, and the Aloha Dormitory, is bounded by a one-story arcade. A series of caryatids support the brick arches of the arcade.

Attached to the east end of the Inn is the dining room.

At the west end is a three-story (plus basement) ballroom (1927). From the exterior, the ballroom consists of a tall, stucco structure with peaked dormers lining the roof. On the interior it is quite spectacular. Two-story brick arches with galleries behind them surround the dance floor. Above each bay is a row of niches, each of which contains a piece of sculpture. The ballroom has a timber roof modeled on the hammer beam ceilings of medieval architecture. There is a dormer window in each bay, creating the series of peaked dormers seen on the exterior. Numerous chandeliers hang from the ceiling.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

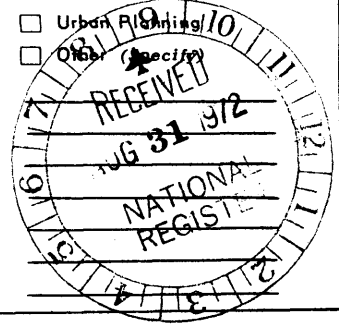
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1890-c. 1930

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

National Park Seminary is a folly. The fantasy-land feeling of the Seminary in its wooded setting has charmed alumnae, city planners, visitors, local residents, and even its current owner, the United States Army.<sup>1</sup> The naive frivolity and exuberance of the "age of innocence" has survived intact at National Park in the midst of twentieth-century Silver Spring and the Capital Beltway.<sup>2</sup> The extravagances of National Park--its sorority houses, each in a different style; the countless statues throughout the grounds; the three-story ballroom--decry the functionalism of our age.

The educational theories behind the concept of National Park Seminary certainly would be considered follies today. Higher education for women no longer centers on training future gracious wives and mothers. Although the "finishing school" is a dying institution in America, it did express the dominant attitudes toward women's capabilities and roles in society in the days before woman's suffrage and Women's Lib.

The greatest humanitarian contribution of the Seminary has occurred in the last two decades while Walter Reed Army Hospital has used the site as a convalescent center. During World War II, wounded soldiers spent an average of twenty days in the bucolic setting recovering from the ravages of war. A reporter for the Baltimore Sun described this transformation:

[a] one-time finishing school for ritzy sweet young things becomes the healer of the sick and maimed, giving the boys in khaki a luxurious but none the less homelike atmosphere to smooth the comeback trail. There's no suggestion of the hospital about it--and for that the men are grateful.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See Sue LoPresti, "This is a Military Installation?," Military Living (December 1971), 26-27.

<sup>2</sup>Henry F. May, The End of American Innocence (Chicago 1959).

<sup>3</sup>The Sun (Baltimore), May 30, 1947.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Columbian Exposition Album Containing Views of the Grounds, Main and State Buildings, Statuary, Architectural Details, Interiors, Midway Plaisance Scenes, and Other Interesting Objects Which Had Place at the World's Columbian Exposition Chicago: 1893. Chicago: Rand, McNally and Company, 1893.

Crawford, James, Senior Planner, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. Information from the Commission's files. [see continuation sheet]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39° 00' 49"	77° 03' 33"	77	03	33
NE	39° 00' 51"	77° 03' 15"	77	03	15
SE	39° 00' 34"	77° 03' 11"	77	03	11
SW	39° 00' 38"	77° 03' 29"	77	03	29

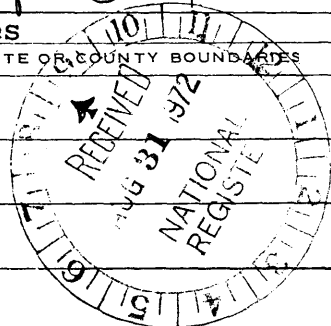
OR

*See correction per letter 10/26/72*

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 23 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



N

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Nancy Miller, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: July 10, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland 21401      CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

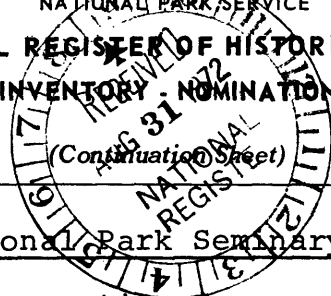
*Robert M. Utley*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/14/72

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/13/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM



STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		14 SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

National Park Seminary Historic District

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

The Odeon Theater (1907) is connected to the west end of the main building by a covered walk way. Basically a rectangular structure, the theater has a large semi-circular bay at its east end, and a portico of Ionic columns running along the east facade. It has a vaguely Greek Revival feeling which is much stronger in the architecture of the gymnasium (1907). The gym is a three-story, rectangular structure (see photograph) with a portico composed of six Corinthian columns supporting an entablature of wreaths and garlands. The entrance facade has two tiers of windows connected by vertical bands of trim reminiscent of Renaissance strap work patterns. At the center of the facade which contains the entrance, a two-story section protrudes. The entrance consists of two pilasters supporting an entablature and a round-arched window on top. Two round-arched windows flank the door. A balustrade runs around the entrance bay.

National Park Seminary gained a reputation for eclecticism from its sorority houses--each one built in a different style. The houses are scattered across the campus. Initially they shared the same plan: a three-story building with one meeting room on each floor. However, some of the houses have received additions which have expanded this usual plan.

The Japanese pagoda (see photograph) is perhaps the most noted of the sorority houses. Built after 1904, it is three stories tall and has the characteristic oriental roof treatment with a series of roofs--one atop each floor--each of which has a pronounced kick at the corners. Originally it was painted with a red-lacquer and had black roofs. It had been assumed that this building came from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. However, the pavilion at Forest Glen bears little resemblance to the copy of the Hoo-Den Temple erected in Chicago.<sup>1</sup>

Holland is represented by a windmill (c. 1899, see photograph) which used to have a working blade. Today the windmill is a three-story polygonal structure, pyramidal in shape, covered with blue shingles. A balustrade encircles the structure at the third story. A one-story wing was added to the east end. A gable-roofed one-story projection at the west end serves as the entrance porch.

<sup>1</sup>See the Columbian Exposition Album . . . (Chicago, 1893), 19.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	14	DATE
	4 SEP 1972	

(Number all entries)

National Park Seminary Historic District

Next to the windmill is the Gate House (c. 1904). This rectangular building has, at the north end, a two-story portico with square piers and a balustraded veranda at each floor (see photograph). The architecture was intended to represent the Georgian style. Palladian windows, cornice trim, Gothic sashes, garlands, and other details of eighteenth century derivation are scattered over the building like roses on a bakery birthday cake.

A circular, stuccoed castle (see photograph) looks across the glen to the Gate House and windmill. Both the central portion and the round tower are crenelated. The first floor lancet-shaped opening on the west side once functioned as a drawbridge which connected to a foot bridge across the ravine. A one-story stone wing was added to the east side.

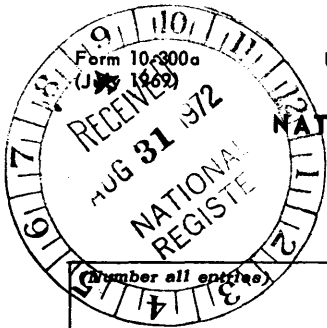
The first sorority house built (1896) at National Park was the shingled one-and-one-half story structure to the northeast of the entrance to the Inn. The school chose the American bungalow as the theme for the architecture. It resembles an attempt at the revival of an early colonial style.

The Chalet (1899) originally located on the ballroom site, had as its model the vernacular houses of Switzerland. It was constructed with brown shingles which have since been replaced. The walls are flat and white. There are casement windows, a pair of second-story balconies, and wide overhanging eaves.

In 1903, one sorority built a mission-style house modeled on the Santa Barbara Mission. A stuccoed building with characteristic Spanish roofline, it had mission-style furnishings before a remodeling in the 1930's.

The other principle building on the campus is a three-story dormitory executed in the Italianate style. The low-pitched hip roof, the corner tower, and the balcony of the third story, enforce the Italian feeling. Statues were placed throughout the grounds and incorporated with the landscape plans. The sculpture is academic in form and works well in the setting. Originally, National Park had formal gardens intermixed with the natural beauty of the wooded glen. These gardens have deteriorated.

Virtually all of the buildings are connected by covered walkways. The numerous foot bridges across the glen and the ravine to the B & O station are no longer extant because the construction of the Capital Beltway cut the Seminary off from the other side. The connecting bridge to the castle is extant.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Maryland
COUNTY		Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
14	SEP 1972	

National Park Seminary Historic District

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

On a local level, National Park is very important to the citizens of Forest Glen, which borders on the west side of the Seminary. The 23 acres of wooded land create a rural vista in the midst of congested, suburban Washington. The Seminary grounds offer welcome open space and lend an air of bucolic dignity to the home owners in the vicinity.

The ground on which the seminary is located once belonged to Daniel Carroll, Commissioner of the District of Columbia. In 1772, his brother, John Carroll, the first bishop and first archbishop of the American Roman Catholic Church, began his ecclesiastical career on the Carroll property.

National Park Seminary opened in 1894 under the direction of Dr. and Mrs. John A. I. Cassedy. They bought the resort hotel, Forest Inn, and converted it to a seminary for women. The Casседys built the majority of the extant structures. In 1916, James E. Ament took over the seminary. His chief contributions consisted of building the ballroom, installing the sculpture, and landscaping the grounds. By the late 1930's, Roy Tasco Davis had replaced Ament and converted National Park into a junior college. In 1942, the U. S. Army cut short Davis' tenure when the property became part of Walter Reed Army Hospital.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Getty, Mildred. "National Park Seminary." The Montgomery County Story. Vol. XIII (February 1970), 1-8.

Kennedy, George. "Army Hospital, Former National Park Seminary Keeps Name of Forest Glen Alive." Washington Evening Star, January 22, 1951.

Lancaster, Clay. Architectural Follies in America. Rutland, Vermont: Charles Tuttle, 1960.

LoPresti, Susan. "Is This a Military Installation?" Military Living (December 1971), 26-27.

May, Henry F. The Era of American Innocence: A Study of the First Years of Our Own Time 1912-1917. Chicago: Quadrangle Paperbacks, 1959.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTERED	DATE
<del>SEP 1972</del>	

(Number all entries)

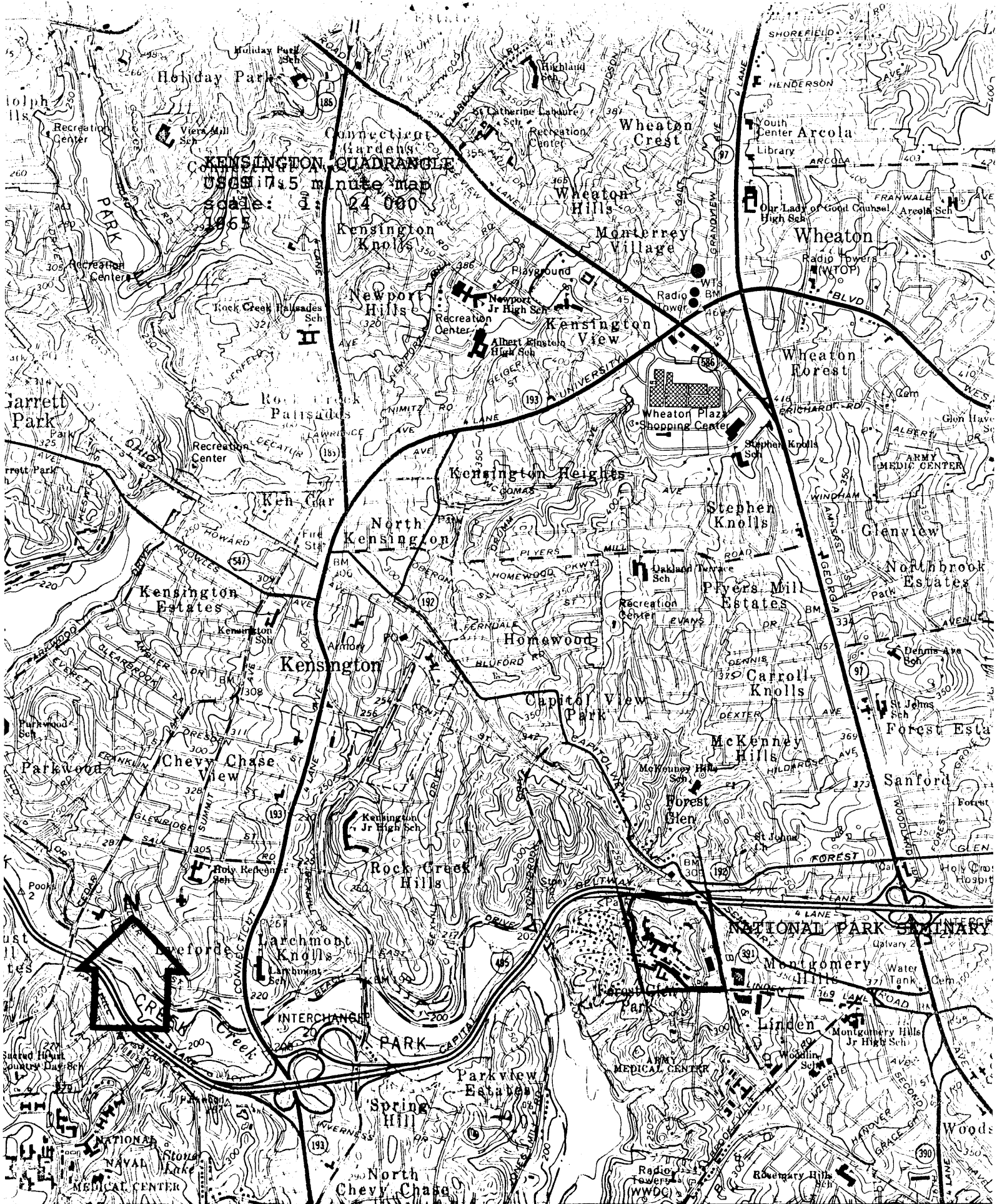
National Park Seminary Historic District

The Sun (Baltimore, May 30, 1943, June 22, 1947.

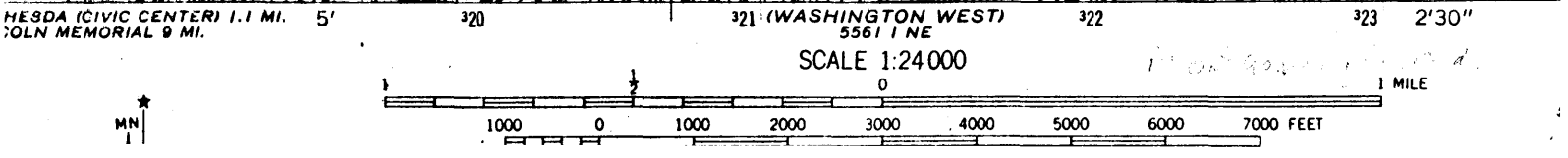
The Washington Post, June 15, 1972.







KENSINGTON QUADRANGLE  
 USGS 1:7.5 minute map  
 scale: 1:24 000





1. Aloha Dormitory
2. Chapel
3. Indian Mission
4. American Bungalow I
5. Miller Library
6. Home Economics House
7. Japanese Pagoda
8. Swiss Chalet
9. Odeon Theater
10. "Ye Forest Inn"
11. American Bungalow II
12. Dutch Windmill House
13. Dining Room
14. Practice House
15. Gate House
16. English Castle
17. Villa Dormitory
18. Gymnasium
19. Ballroom
20. Stable
21. Servants' Quarters
22. "The Glen"
23. Italian Fountain

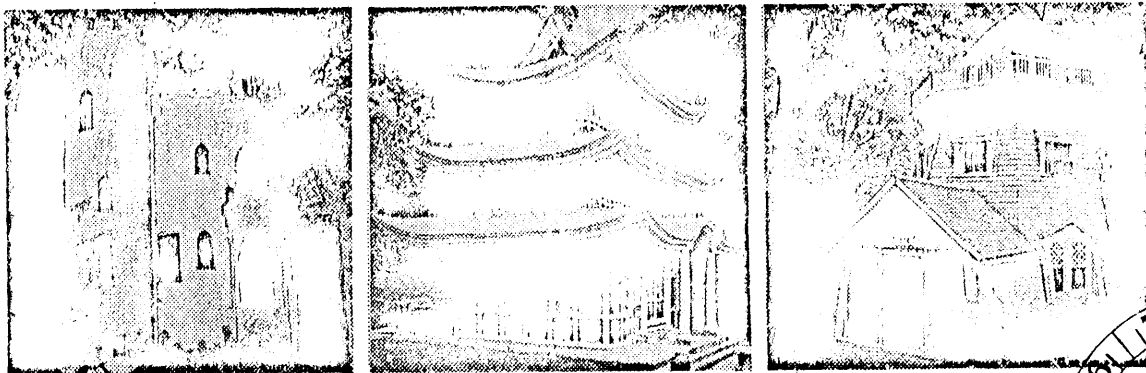
## Whimsical "Soul Power"

Americans have rarely indulged in architectural fancies of the kind Europe's princes and potentates used to delight in. But there are some such places and one of the most charmingly fanciful of them is right at our doorstep, as it were—at Forest Glen, Md., just south of the Beltway at Linden Lane. Even Walt Disney's imagination could not have dreamed up such strange enchantment as was built at the turn of the century for Mr. and Mrs. John Irving Cassady's girls school. It was known as the "National Park Seminary" in its time, which lasted from 1894 to 1942, when the Army took it over as an annex to Walter Reed Hospital. The girls were referred to as "young women" and, according to an early catalog of the school, trained not only in scholarship and social graces, but also with the morality and culture of personality the Cassadys liked to call "soul power." The fantastic architecture presumably was to help strengthen and expand souls. And so, in a setting of lovely trees and knolls, along a bucolic stream, we find a Japanese pagoda which was the Japanese display at the 1898 Chicago Exposition, a Spanish mission, a Swiss chalet, a medieval castle with drawbridge and sundry other buildings, eleven in all. This architectural museum is connected by medieval archways and bridges adorned with no end of bronze and stone sphinxes, lions, barking dogs, caryatids in the form of "sweet sixteen" school girls and sundry figures in flowing robes that hold the street lamps aloft.

The first of these buildings was originally a summer resort hotel, "Ye Forest Inn." It failed because of its inaccessibility, though the girls could later

ride to downtown Washington in the streetcar provided they were properly chaperoned. The most fanciful buildings served as sorority houses. The Chiopi house represented an American bungalow; Kappa took the form of a Dutch windmill; Zeta was a Swiss chalet; Delta, at the end of bridge, depicted a gate house; and so it went. Performances were given in the Odeon, a theater with a large stage, orchestra seats and boxes. Large events took place in the three-tiered ballroom with its stained glass windows and 70 feet high, open beamed ceiling—a place as ornate as any built in the "gay nineties."

Forest Glen served the Army well, mainly for the convalescence of wounded soldiers, various medical facilities and as officers' quarters. The buildings and grounds are in good condition. Over the last four years alone the Army has spent close to \$2 million to maintain them, though this has understandably been "a hell of a headache" for the hospital engineers. The Walter Reed masterplan therefore calls for replacing this fancy with sensible garden apartments for officers' families. But there are other sites for military housing and Montgomery County planners are trying to find a way by which the National Park Seminary can be saved and restored for some lively new purpose — a County Cultural Center, perhaps. The Army seems willing to cooperate, as it should. Endowed with natural beauty, Forest Glen is surely a most unusual national landmark that could, with relatively little money and effort, enhance the "soul power" of this area. No new Disneyland could do as well.



The Washington Post, June 15, 1972.

