

PH 0300181

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1975

DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
\* \* Western Maryland College Historic District  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West Main Street and College

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Westminster

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Carroll

013

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Board of Directors, Western Maryland College

STREET & NUMBER

Western Maryland College

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                               UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

one structure moved in 1937

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

The Western Maryland College Historic District, Westminster, is situated within the confines of the present one hundred-plus acre college campus and comprises an area of about three acres at its southeast corner. The district is bounded on the south side by Union Town Pike and West Main Street, on the southeast by Union Street, on the northeast by a line running northwest to southeast paralleling the President's House and Little Baker Chapel, and on the northeast by a line running northwest to southwest and about 100 feet northwest of the rear of the President's House to West Main Street. Within this area stand six of the college's earliest surviving buildings and structures: Alumni Hall, Carroll Hall, Levine Hall, The President's House, Little Baker Chapel, and the Ward Memorial Arch. Only the President's House, Ward Memorial Arch, and Carroll Hall have their own semi-private settings. Alumni Hall, Baker Chapel and Levine Hall occupy sites close to frequently travelled streets. All buildings, however, have tree shaded grounds and are a short walking distance from one another.

Carroll Hall, a visually pleasing Victorian Gothic-style villa of rose colored brick with white trim, was built in 1871 as a private residence. It is a one and one half story building with a high, steeply pitched gable roof. Centered on the principal (east) facade is a two story flat roofed tower. The main entrance is located on the first floor level of the tower beneath a flat roofed porch decorated with Gothic tracery. Above the porch is a two over two Gothic arched window and above that a wide slatted fascia below the tower roof. The original tower roof was probably peaked but its high gable was apparently removed some years ago. Flanking the tower are four windows, two on each side, one on each floor level. The second floor windows rise above the cornice of the roof and are gabled. All openings have pointed Gothic arches and frame two over two sash. On both ends of the building is a frame, three sided, one story projecting bay window on the first floor level, a double window at the second floor and a small window within the gable. At the rear of the building stand a series of multi-gabled and balconied wings and additions.

The President's House, built in 1889, is a two story stone and frame house with a few Queen Anne features. There is a more recent one story addition to the southwest end. It is basically a two story hipped roofed square block with gabled projections on all four sides. On the northeast corner of the house is a three story, pyramid roofed tower. The windows of the stone first floor level have brick flat arches, one over one pane sash and white painted louvered blinds. The transomed, double leafed entrance door is situated near the south end of the east facade. The second floor is of white painted ripple edged boards and has windows of six over six sash with louvered blinds painted black. Near the peak of the clipped gables are small windows that are presumably used for ventilating the attic. The

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Carroll County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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third floor level of the tower has multi paned and shuttered windows on each of its eight sides.

Levine Hall, built in 1891, is a Colonial Revival style brick building, rectangular in shape and with classical motifs decorating the windows, doors and pedimented gables. Initially built as two stories it was raised to three full floors in 1901.

Little Baker Chapel, dedicated in 1875, is a small building with a central octagonal space incorporated in a Greek Cross plan. There are some Richardsonian forms present such as the massive semi-circular stone arches over the western entrance and other first floor openings. At the entrance there is a double leafed door with a semi-circular stained glass transom above. A bulky, frame, two story tower with a pyramid roof was later added to the roof of the pediment over the west entrance. On each of the four exterior walls of the central octagonal space are large windows with rounded heads projecting above the cornice line and enclosed with pedimented gables. Pictorial scenes of stained glass in these windows are the work of the Baltimore firm of H. T. Gernhardt and Co. and were installed in 1920.

The Ward Memorial Arch, a local interpretation of Romanesque architecture exhibiting a Richardsonian influence, was built in 1898 at a location proximate to the President's House and was relocated on its present site in 1937. It is of heavy, rough cut stone with large stone Voussoirs framing the semi-circular arch.

Alumni Hall, because of its massive size and basically Renaissance Revival style brick architecture, is perhaps the best known of the six structures recorded here. It has rusticated walls at the first floor level of the square front block and the principal (west) facade features rusticated entrance bays and two story pilasters with Ionic capitals on the second and third floor levels of the two pavillions flanking the curved central section. The central part of the facade is crowned by an attic story with circular attic windows, garlands and pilasters. On the rear elevation is a lower, three story, semi-circular apse with a low conical shaped roof.

The interior contains a large galleried auditorium widely recognized for the excellence of its accoustics, a theatre, work shops and class rooms. The detailing of the auditorium employs a classical motif throughout. Some of the more interesting features include handsome stained glass windows on the second and third floor levels of the apse.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Western Maryland College was established under the auspices of the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church and chartered by an act of the Maryland Legislative in 1864. Consideration was first given to a site in the Baltimore City area but this was later changed to its present site in Westminster.

The original eight acre campus was acquired by the college's state appointed Board of Directors in 1864 utilizing private monies. The site, although privately owned, was one that for many years was used by the citizens of Westminster as a meeting and picnicing area. Commonly referred to at that time as the "Old Commons", it was the scene of annual fourth of July celebrations, political rallies and during the Civil War was utilized by the Army of the Potomac to bivouac troops and for the placement of guns to protect the daily arrival of artillery on the nearby western Maryland railroad.

The first building to be constructed, combining classrooms and dormitories, was known as the Main Building. Combining brick and stone, a regionally common building material, it was initially constructed in 1866, added to in 1871, 1887, and 1890, and demolished in 1956. About fourteen other buildings were constructed on the eight acre site between 1866 and 1900; but with the exception of those included in this nomination, all have been razed and other buildings erected on their sites. The structures nominated an historic district are the oldest surviving architectural links with the nineteenth century beginnings of the college.

Alumni Hall has served the college and community in several ways throughout its history. Designed by Jackson C. Gott of Baltimore, Alumni Hall was completed in 1899 to function as a hall for Commencement exercises, banquets, and other social functions such as a meeting place for the Literary Societies. When Little Baker Chapel became too small to hold the growing number of students, and previous to the erection of the larger Baker Memorial Chapel, Alumni Hall was also used on Sundays for religious services. Since then its services have grown to become the major performing center on campus, offering two stage areas, the larger auditorium and the smaller, more intimate area known as "understage." These are used by the Dramatic Art Department and the Music Department. Alumni Hall is exceptionally valuable for this purpose as the building is acoustically excellent and so designed to ensure an almost perfect

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bulletin of the Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland. No. 2  
May 1952.

Makosky, John D. "Western Maryland College in the Nineteenth Century,"  
1940.

(See continuation sheet No. 4)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY three acres

UTM REFERENCES

	100		4382-960					
A	1,8	3,2,8,0,0,0	4,3,8,30,0,0		B	1,8	3,2,8,0,80	4,3,8,29,20
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3,2,7,9,0,0	4,3,8,2,97,0		D	1,8	3,2,7,9,7,0	4,3,8,3,1,70
								120

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

328-600

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE J. Richard Riivoire, Architectural Historian

James F. Ridenour, Vice President for Development

sao

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Western Maryland College

5/9/75

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis

STATE

Westminster

Maryland

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

*John N. Pearce* 12/12/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

DATE

*3/26/76*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Robert B. Rettig*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3-21-76

*Acting*

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view of the stage from virtually every seat. Alumni Hall also houses the entire Dramatic Art Department, providing offices for professors and classrooms and stage areas for students.

Alumni Hall is not only important to the college but to the surrounding community as well. It served as the major auditorium for Westminster from 1899 to 1971 when the Westminster High School was built, which included an auditorium with a larger capacity (1,600 compared to 900). But Alumni Hall continues to serve the community even now as almost all of the productions given by the Dramatic Art and Music Departments are open to the public.

Levine Hall is the oldest college classroom building still standing, dating back to 1891. It was the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Billingslea in memory of their son, Levine Billingslea. It was originally built to house the Primary Department of the college and was later used for the Preparatory School. As a Preparatory School, the building contained sleeping rooms for the male students, recitation rooms, the library, and the principal's office. In 1899, Levine Hall was enlarged to provide classroom space, and, in 1901, a third floor was added. Levine Hall currently houses the Music Department, providing classrooms, studios, practice rooms, a recital hall, and the Doria Music Library.

"Little Baker" Chapel, so called to distinguish it from the later built and larger Baker Memorial Chapel, was dedicated to the college in 1895 as a gift from a trustee of the college, Mr. William G. Baker. Mr. Baker donated the Chapel as a thanks offering to God for the restoration of the health of his son. Originally the Chapel was used for Sunday School and Sunday evening services, but in 1932 the Sunday service was moved to Alumni Hall because the Chapel could no longer contain the number of people attending. Since then the Chapel, with a seating capacity of 250, has provided an intimate setting for weddings, christenings, and funerals. The Chapel is also used for weekly religious purposes intended for smaller gatherings, including weekly communion services.

When built, Little Baker did not include the stained glass windows it now displays. They were added in 1920 by Mr. Baker and his brother, Daniel. Created by H. T. Gernhardt and Co. of Baltimore, they include "The Annunciation" (after Hoffman), "The Madonna and Child" (Raphael), "The Light of the World" (Hunt), and "Christ in the Temple" (Hoffman), as well as several smaller, abstract ones. Later additions to the Chapel include an altar painting done by Fannie Thompson in 1903.

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The President's House was built in 1889 as a gift from the Baker brothers of Buckeystown, Maryland and has housed five consecutive college presidents and their families. The presence of the President's House on campus is a dying tradition in many colleges, but it has allowed for a closer contact between the presidents and the student/faculty bodies throughout the years. The President's House also serves as a center for various social functions involving students, faculty, trustees, and members of the surrounding community.

The Victorian Gothic Carroll Hall, built in 1871, was the former home of the John L. Reifsnider, Sr. family and was purchased by Western Maryland College in 1922. It was transformed into the Gray Gables Inn, which became a popular gathering place for students and visitors of the college. It was later used as the Western Maryland College Administration Building, and it now houses the Education Department and serves as a center for the graduate program.

Ward Memorial Arch was built in 1898 in honor of Dr. James T. Ward, the first president of Western Maryland College. It was a gift from his niece, Ulie Norment Hurley. The arch originally stood at the entrance of College Drive between the President's House and McDaniel Hall. Because cars had difficulty navigating its narrow opening, it was relocated at the far southern point of the campus (Main and Union Streets) in 1937.

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Schofield, Samuel B. "Conveniences for Living at Western Maryland College," May 4, 1974; "Incidents in the History of Western Maryland College," August 1974; "Western Maryland College Campus and Buildings, 1889-1920," March 29, 1974.

WMC Bulletin, July-August 1952, January 1953.

WMC Catalogue, 1894-95 through 1974-75.

WMC Monthly, October 1894, October 1902, May 1903

J. T. Ward Scrap Book, newspaper article dated May 29, 1891.



BASIC MASTER PLAN

NEW ATHLETIC FACILITY

NEW HOUSING  
96 STUDENTS

TENNIS PAVILLION

NEW HOUSING  
48 STUDENTS

NEW HOUSING  
64 STUDENTS

NEW STUDENT CENTER

NEW TEAM FACILITIES  
WITH PRESS BOX  
REFURBISH STANDS  
ADD STANDS

LIBRARY EXPANSION  
COMPUTER INSTALLATION

NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

NEW HOUSING  
64 STUDENTS

RENOVATE ALUMNI AUDITORIUM  
AND LEVINE HALL FOR MUSIC DEPT.  
PROVIDE ENCLOSED LINK

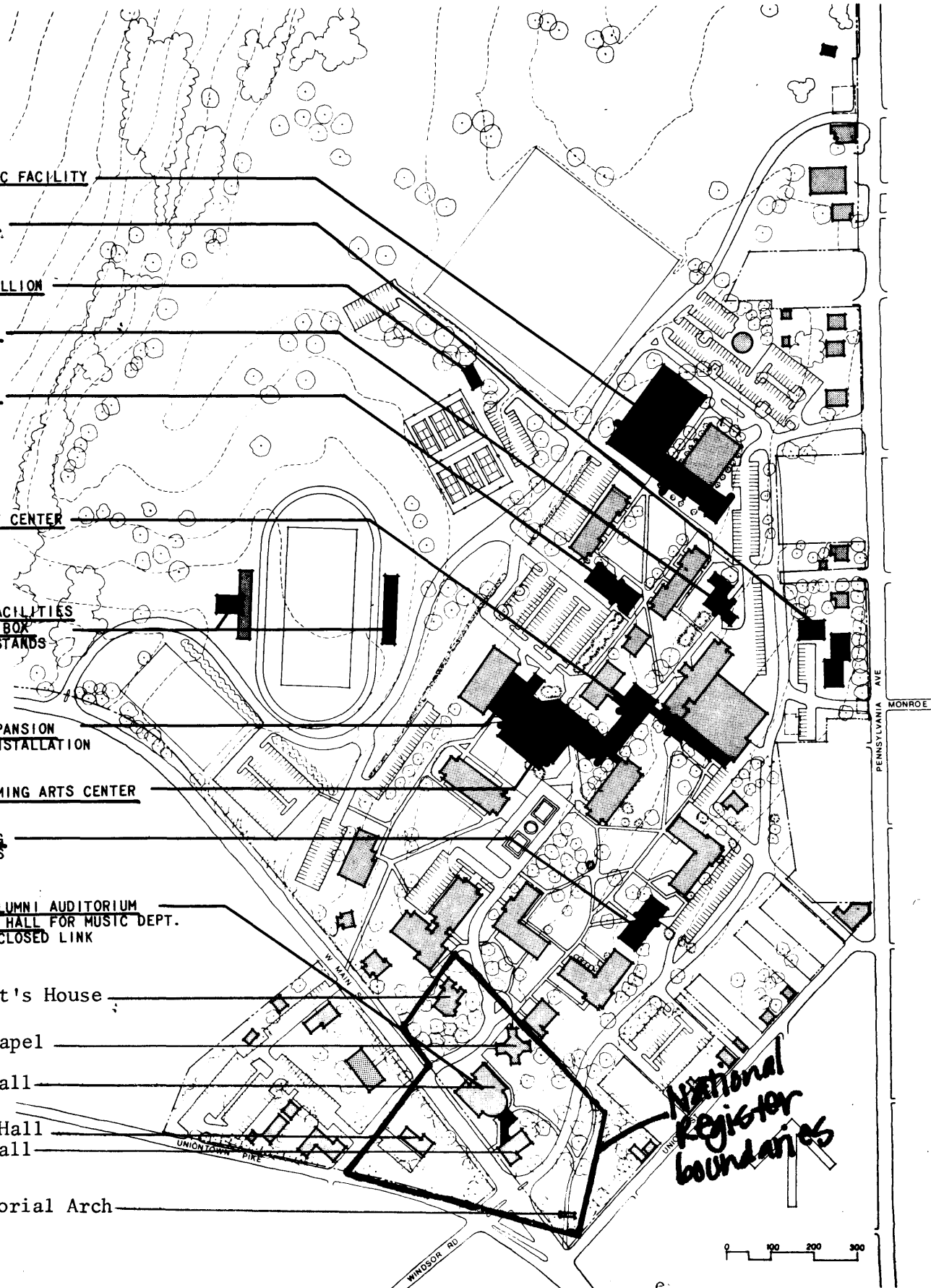
President's House

Baker Chapel

Alumni Hall

Carroll Hall  
Levine Hall

Ward Memorial Arch



*National Register boundaries*

