

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

82

1. Name

historic Montrose Schoolhouse

and/or common Montrose Schoolhouse

2. Location S of Rockville on Randolph Rd.

street & number .1 mile east of Rockville Pike on
Randolph Road (north side) N/A not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

M:2-30

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Montrose Schoolhouse is a one-story, rectangular, hip-roofed building of frame construction with a pebble-dash finish. On the principal (south) facade, a gabled projecting vestibule holds the recessed entrance; the double entrance doors are surmounted by a transom of two large horizontal panes surrounded by a band of small lights, sheltered by a bracketed hood and flanked on either side by a tall, narrow 4/4 window. The gable frames a sign reading "MONTROSE SCHOOL 4-4". The roof is covered with patterned metal; the eaves project and have curved soffits. The side elevations each have a group of five (one covered on the east) large 4/4 windows to light the two classrooms. The interior has been adapted to office use. A series of brick and cinderblock additions have been made to the rear of the building.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Montrose School is located on the north side of Randolph Road, .1 mile east of Rockville Pike outside the city limits of Rockville, in Montgomery County, Maryland.

The original, 1909 part of the schoolhouse is rectangular with an enclosed porch projecting from the main (south) facade. The entrance is in the center of this porch, recessed from the wall surface and covered with a shed roof with curving wood brackets. Flanking the entryway are two large, 4/4, double hung sash windows. Projecting eaves with curved plaster soffit and cornice run across the gable, framing the name "Montrose School 4-4" in the center. Each side wall of the porch also contains a 4/4 double hung sash window.

The classroom block is divided into two main rooms. Each side wall contains a grouping of windows, five on the west side and four on the east, where the center window has been covered over. At one time the east side had single windows on both the front and back walls of the room; however, these have since been covered over. The west side has a single window on the front wall.

The roof is a gabled hip, with two triangular vent louvers in the exposed peak of the rear gable. The eaves are a continuation of the projecting eaves with curved plaster soffit and cornice found on the entry porch. The roof is covered with patterned tin roofing, and the entire exterior is covered with pebble-dash.

The floor plan of the school remains basically unchanged. There were originally two large classrooms divided by a sliding partition. The latter has been replaced with a permanent wall and the east classroom has been made into several offices with temporary dividers. The main entrance on the south opens into a triangular vestibule, which is flanked on each side by a cloakroom. In the center of the north wall is the rear entryway, a small, enclosed space originally opening to the outside, but now connecting the 1909 school to the later additions. The walls in the building were originally plastered; later, vertical paneling was installed. The flooring was originally

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1909 **Builder/Architect** T. C. Groomes

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Montrose Schoolhouse is significant for its architecture, as an excellent example of an early twentieth century school building embodying the functional, rationalistic design principles which were then promoted nationally. Montrose Schoolhouse embodies a concern for adequate light and ventilation in its high ceilings, multiple tall windows, and air vents in the roof and foundation. Its storage space, amenities, and circulation patterns were also designed to maximize efficiency. In its local context, it is the best-preserved of the six functional school buildings constructed in Montgomery County around 1910.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

In 1907-1908 architect T. C. Groomes was commissioned to design a plan for two-room schools in Montgomery County. Design features recommended by nationwide architectural reports were used in six new two-room schools. Following these recommendations, the Montrose School was placed on a three-foot masonry foundation, providing important ventilation space beneath the floor. Air vents were incorporated into the foundation and roof, providing a constant air flow. Each classroom had a grouping of five large windows to give the recommended light and air; the windows rose to within a foot of the 13-foot ceiling, creating deflection of air and light off the ceiling. Designed into the building was a space for a recessed entrance, a vestibule, and two cloakrooms. Teachers' closets, flues, blackboard and window heights were also as recommended in this design philosophy.

Montgomery County began its public education system in 1860. By 1868 the pre-1865 Montrose School taught fifty-eight students from nearby farms. When this building was destroyed by fire in 1872, it was immediately rebuilt. By 1879 the community of Montrose numbered about one hundred, with several stores, the schoolhouse, and nearby the Randolph Station on the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O, and the well-traveled Rockville Pike.

After the turn of the 20th century, one-room cottage-shaped schoolhouses proved insufficient for new suburban attitudes and the growing population. The School Board assigned a local committee to find a new school site, and in December 1908 one acre was purchased from Beverly R. Codwise for \$400.00. \$2,200.00 was appropriated to build the new pebble-dashed schoolhouse following the basic design of Groomes, and the abandoned school of 1872 was offered for sale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

M: 30-2

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Kensington, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	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 #3

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Donald Leavitt</u>		
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organization	<u>Peerless Rockville Historic Pres. Ltd.</u>	date	<u>December, 1977 (photos 5/1982)</u>
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street & number	<u>P. O. Box 262</u>	telephone	<u>(301) 762-1017</u>
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city or town	<u>Rockville</u>	state	<u>Maryland 20850</u>
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12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

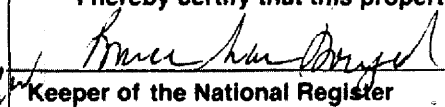
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature		date	<u>12-7-82</u>
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title	<u>STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER</u>	date	
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For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>1/29/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

M:

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Montrose Schoolhouse

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 4, 7 and 8 Page 1

OWNERS OF PROPERTY

Building owned by:

Peerless Rockville
Eileen McGuckian, President
P. O. Box 262
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Land owned by:

Maryland Department of Transportation
Mr. Hal Kassoff, Director
Office of Planning and Engineering
State Highway Administration
P. O. Box 717
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

narrow boarding; it has since been covered with linoleum tiles. The ceiling material is not original, yet the height appears to be the same, creating the sense of openness and light recommended for schools in the early 20th century.

The building is constructed of sawn framing members. Over the studs is a sheathing of diagonally positioned boards, to which pebble-dash is attached.

The first addition to the school was a small wooden leanto added to the rear entryway. Later this was extended to the west corner. In 1948 a large 1½-story classroom section and a lower hallway and bathroom section were added onto the back. The final addition to the school was a one-story hallway with flanking rooms. Each of the later additions was constructed of brick and cinderblock.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Montrose School opened to students in September, 1909. Except for a time in 1918 when there was a shortage of teachers, the school remained open and serving the Montrose and Randolph communities through the 1960 school year. Several rooms were added to the rear of the building, and in 1948 a third classroom and indoor plumbing improved the facility; by then one hundred students attended the school. In 1960 Montrose was converted into a school for special education students. Six years later, school personnel took over the building for office use, and in 1970 the school system abandoned it. It was sold to the County, who in turn sold it to the State Highway Administration in 1971. The building has been restored and adapted to office use.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Montrose Schoolhouse Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 9 Page 2

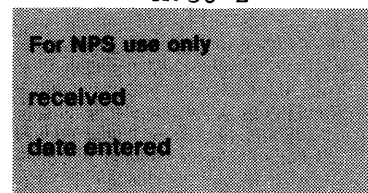
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Barnard, Henry. School Architecture; or the Contributions to the Improvement of School Houses in the United States. New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1848.
- Boyd, T.H.S. History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968. (Reprint).
- Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1879.
- Jewell, E. Guy. From One Room to Open Space: A History of Montgomery County Schools From 1732 to 1965. Rockville, Md.: Montgomery County Public Schools, 1976.
- Martenet and Bond, "Map of Montgomery County, Maryland," 1865.
- Montgomery County School Board, School Board Minutes, 1907-09.
- U. S. Bureau of Education, Rural School House Architecture. Circular of Information No. 4 (1880).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

M: 30-2

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Montrose School Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 10 Page 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning for the same at a point on the North side of the road leading from the Rockville and Georgetown Turnpike to Randolph Station on the B & O Railroad and at the end of three hundred and sixty one and eight tenths feet measured on the fourth line of said conveyance from its intersection with the center of the Washington and Rockville Electric R.R., and running thence with said fourth line and the Northern edge of said road, North eighty nine degrees, fifteen minutes East, two hundred and fourteen and twenty four hundredth feet; then leaving said line North forty five minutes West, two hundred and three and three hundred and twenty three thousandth feet; then parallel with the first line South eighty nine degrees, fifteen minutes West, two hundred and fourteen and twenty four hundredths feet; and thence South forty five minutes East, two hundred and three and three hundred and twenty three thousandth feet to the place of beginning, containing one (1) acre of land...

References:
Montgomery County Land Records
J.L.B. 202/126 (1908)
+3990/438 (1970)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Acreage includes only the single lot upon which the resource stands.